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Speaker: The Honourable James Arreak, M.L.A.

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

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**Iqaluit, Nunavut
Wednesday, June 9, 2010**

Members Present:

Honourable Eva Aariak, Honourable James Arreak, Mr. James Arvaluk, Mr. Moses Aupaluktuq, Honourable Tagak Curley, Mr. Ron Elliott, Mr. Adamee Komoartok, Honourable Lorne Kusugak, Mr. Johnny Ningeongan, Mr. Paul Okalik, Honourable Keith Peterson, Mr. Allan Rumbolt, Mr. Fred Schell, Honourable Daniel Shewchuk, Honourable Louis Tapardjuk, Honourable Peter Taptuna, Honourable Hunter Tootoo, Jeannie Ugyuk.

Item 1: Opening Prayer

Speaker (Hon. James Arreak) (interpretation): Before we proceed, I would like to ask Mr. Ningeongan to say the opening prayer. Mr. Ningeongan.

>>*Prayer*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningeongan. A very good afternoon, Premier, Ministers, Members of the Legislative Assembly, people of Nunavut and Qikiqtarjuaq.

Going to our Orders of the Day. Item 2. (interpretation ends) Ministers' Statements. Hon. Tagak Curley.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

**Minister's Statement 174 – 3(2):
Midwifery Services and Training
in Cambridge Bay**

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to day to make a statement about midwifery services and training in Cambridge Bay. The Nunavut Maternal and Newborn

Health Care Strategy demonstrates our commitment to supporting and increasing access to midwifery services and improving maternal care services across the territory.

As part of the strategy's implementation plan, midwifery services have been offered in Cambridge Bay since January 2010. Since then, there have been four babies delivered by midwives at the beginning of this year.

Mr. Speaker, having a birthing centre with a complement of trained midwives in Cambridge Bay provides safe and high quality birthing services to many new expectant families in the Kitikmeot region. Through midwives, mothers can also access enhanced prenatal and postnatal care.

Mr. Speaker, to further support the expansion of midwifery services in the Kitikmeot region, I am pleased to announce that the Midwifery Education Program will be offered by Nunavut Arctic College in Cambridge Bay starting in September 2010. This program has been very successful in Rankin Inlet and includes an extensive learning component on traditional Inuit midwifery practices. Inuit elder midwives advised on curriculum content to ensure that the training and services provided thereafter are culturally relevant.

Mr. Speaker, having more community-based capacity to deliver maternal and newborn health care, supported by registered midwives and maternal care workers, offers the potential for women and their families to receive local care that is safe, focused on health promotion, and based on Inuit culture and

knowledge. I wanted to make a statement about that, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Ministers' Statements. Hon. Daniel Shewchuk.

Minister's Statement 175 – 3(2): Fur Production and Design Student Wins Top Prize at 2010 Fur Re-Invented National Student Design Competition

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Once again, I am pleased to announce that a student of the Arctic College Fur Production and Design Program recently won the "fur re-invented" student design contest at the North American Fur and Fashion Exposition in Montreal (NAFFEM), May 2 to 4.

>>Applause

The Department of Environment is a proud supporter of the Fur Production and Design Program and would like to offer congratulations to Rosie Audlakiak, this year's grand prize winner.

Rosie is originally from Qikiqtarjuaq, is a first year fur production and design student currently studying at the Iqaluit campus. Her winning design was a red sealskin women's vest which also incorporated fox and raccoon fur. The garment was showcased on the fashion runway at NAFFEM and was on display for the duration of the event.

Rosie's success is the latest of many of the Fur Production and Design Program and is an indication of the high level of dedication and professionalism on behalf of both the students and their instructors. Thanks to them, Nunavut Arctic College has gained recognition in the fur design world as a leader and innovator, particularly in sealskin design. This is the third year our students have participated in this exciting contest and we are grateful to the festival organizers supporting our students with the opportunity to participate.

Our sealskin and fur designers promote the Nunavut sealing and fur industry by presenting their own fashionable designs and conveying the cultural significance behind their work to the international audience attending these high-profile events. We must continue to celebrate our designers, seamstresses, hunters, and all Nunavummiut who rely on sealing and fur through successes such as this. *Ma'na*, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Ministers' Statements. Hon. Louis Tapardjuk.

Minister's Statement 176 – 3(2): Respecting Our Elders

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): A very good afternoon, Mr. Speaker. I have always believed that elders deserve to be treated with dignity and respect. The role of elders has been very important and crucial in our history to address social wellness issues. CLEY continues to work with elders and other GN departments to raise awareness and education on this issue.

My department recently collaborated with the Department of Health and Social Services under their pan-territorial mass media campaign funding to develop a series of posters that have been distributed to all Nunavut communities. Public awareness is the key to address the needs of our elders and ensuring that they are treated with the respect and dignity they so deserve. The posters also highlight the Elders Support Phone Line, where support in the form of peer-to-peer counselling is provided to unilingual elders.

Mr. Speaker, World Elder Abuse Awareness Day takes place on Tuesday, June 15, 2010, which the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth supports fully. This day puts the spotlight on sharing information, learning more about the issue, and discussing the prevention of elder abuse. In light of this day, I would like everyone to take action against elder abuse and promote respect and honour towards the elderly not only once every year but in their everyday lives.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all members and Nunavummiut to promote respect and honour towards the elderly. Please join me in encouraging all Nunavummiut to get involved and advocate on behalf of our greatest resource – our elders. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Ministers' Statements. (interpretation ends) Hon. Peter Taptuna.

Minister's Statement 177 – 3(2): Tourism Sector Development Strategy

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, colleagues and Kuglukturmiut. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to present to the House our Tourism Sector Development Strategy. This strategy is available on our website for public access. We have been working closely with Nunavut Tourism to create this framework for the purpose of moving the tourism sector forward in Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, Nunavut has a lot to offer as a tourism destination and by working together with our industry association, the federal government, Inuit organizations, and our communities, we are building a common vision for the tourism sector that will support and strengthen the economy of our territory.

The strategy has three phases. The first phase entitled 'Taking Leadership, Building Partners' is already being implemented and this involves the creation of a new Division of Tourism and Cultural Industries within my department and the creation of a roadmap for building partnerships in all of the key elements of our tourism sector development.

The second and third phases involve the development and implementation of a consultation plan. In our consultations, we will be working with industry, Inuit organizations, communities, and government to build a comprehensive Nunavut Tourism Strategy that will lead to a vibrant tourism sector that provides for economic opportunities for Nunavummiut throughout the territory.

Mr. Speaker, there are natural linkages between the development of our tourism sector, our transportation infrastructure, and in the development and promotion of Nunavut's cultural industries. Our government will be taking a much more active role in strengthening these linkages and building a greater presence throughout Nunavut.

We have the natural beauty, cultural heritage, and dynamic communities that will attract tourists in ever increasing numbers. We have programs in place to encourage businesses to provide services and opportunities for tourists.

Mr. Speaker, our end goal is to make Nunavut an attractive destination for tourists and tourism investment. Tourism has significant potential for our territory and we will be working to ensure this sector provides a positive contribution to our economy. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Ministers' Statements. Hon. Lorne Kusugak.

**Minister's Statement 178 – 3(2):
Nunavut Justice Centre Project**

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day to you, fellow Nunavummiut.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to inform Members of this Assembly that in addition to the recently announced award we received for the John Arnalukjuak High School in Arviat, the Iqaluit Nunavut Justice Centre project has now been chosen to be published in the 2010 *American Institute*

of Architects Justice Facilities Review Journal. This facility was designed by Number 10 Architectural Group, constructed by GC North, and managed by Community and Government Services on time and on budget.

>>Applause

Mr. Speaker, the Justice Facilities Review recognizes proven strategies and the latest trends in the design and construction of justice facilities. Their distinguished jury chooses projects that demonstrate quality of form, functionality, and architectural responses to complex justice design issues that support programs. This particular project, Mr. Speaker, also incorporated an integrated and thorough planning and design process that incorporated *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* (IQ).

Mr. Speaker, the design of the new justice centre draws inspiration from Inuit carvings, artwork, and the broad, sweeping vistas and beauty of arctic tundra landscapes. A local team of specialists and interpreters were crucial to enhance the subtleties and complexities of the design. The goal of the facility was to preserve and promote the elements that help frame the Inuit identity and promote the culture. This recognition once again emphasizes that Nunavut does have world-class facilities and we are increasingly being recognized as industry leaders in architectural design and implementation.

Mr. Speaker, along with my colleague, the Minister of Justice, and on behalf of the Department of Community and Government Services, I am proud to share this recognition with my

colleagues and all Nunavummiut.
(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Minister.
Ministers' Statements. Item 3. Members'
Statements. Member for Hudson Bay,
Mr. Rumbolt

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 267 – 3(2): Happy Wedding Anniversary of 16 Years to Wife

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.
There are times when we are attending
these proceedings of the House that we
miss important moments with family.
Mr. Speaker, we can only hope that our
families understand that we are away
from home to help make life better for
more than just our own families.

With that being said, Mr. Speaker, I
would like to take this opportunity to
send out a very long distance "happy
wedding anniversary" to my wife of 16
years. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt.
Members' Statements. Member for
South Baffin, Mr. Schell.

Member's Statement 268 – 3(2): Infrastructure Needs of Smaller Communities

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As
we approach the end of our current
sitting, I want to look ahead to the fall
and make some comments today on the
infrastructure needs of our smaller

communities. Mr. Speaker, when we
reconvene in the fall, we will be
considering the government's proposed
capital estimates for the 2011-12 fiscal
year.

I want to take this opportunity to remind
the government about the importance of
ensuring that the needs of our smaller
communities are not forgotten during the
capital planning process.

Mr. Speaker, I will use my community
of Kimmirut as an example. The GN's
current five-year capital plan does not
list any projects for Kimmirut in the
2011-12 fiscal year. It does not list any
projects for Kimmirut in the 2012-13
fiscal year. It does not list any capital
projects for Kimmirut in the 2013-14
fiscal year. And it does not list any
projects in the 2014-15 fiscal year.

Mr. Speaker, we recognize that thanks in
part to what's happening to the Nunavut
Housing Corporation, our capital dollars
are in short supply. However, I want to
emphasize the importance of ensuring
that capital planning is fair and
equitable.

Mr. Speaker, we cannot leave our
smaller communities behind. For
example, Mr. Speaker, if we have a
choice between building a new
community hall for a community that
already has one or building a new
community hall in a community that
doesn't have one, we should choose the
community that currently has nothing.
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Schell. Members' Statements. Member for Quttiktuq, Mr. Elliott.

**Member's Statement 269 – 3(2):
Congratulations to Quttiktuq
Youth**

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to speak of the many successes in Quttiktuq. Springtime is a wonderful time to celebrate for many reasons. It ends another successful school year and people become excited as they start to head out on the land. The end of the school year allows us to celebrate the many successes that people have made over the past academic year.

Mr. Speaker, I was very privileged recently to travel to Ottawa on Saturday, May 15, to attend the Nunavut Sivuniksavut graduation. I am a strong supporter of this program because I have seen its success first-hand. I love to attend their graduation ceremony and hear the speeches that the youth make as they come to realize the potential they hold within.

This year, Amanda Muckpa from Arctic Bay graduated from the Nunavut Sivuniksavut program and I congratulate her on her achievement.

Mr. Speaker, on Friday, May 28, I unfortunately was unable to attend the grade 12 graduation ceremony at the Umimmak School in Grise Fiord. This year's graduating class saw a total of four high school students receive their graduation certificate. I extend my congratulations to:

Terry Noah,
Bryan Noah,

Kevin Kiguktak, and
Jason Qaapik.

Mr. Speaker, both Terry Noah and Jason Qaapik's name may sound familiar because they both participated in the Students on Ice program and had the opportunity to travel to the Antarctica.

Also, this year, over the summer, there are three youth from Grise Fiord who will be participating in the Northern Youth Abroad Program. They are: Kristine Watsko and Michael Muckpa participating in the Canadian Phase of the program and Arnarulunnguaq Audlaluk participating in the International Phase and will be traveling to Africa.

Mr. Speaker, on June 3, Robby Qammaniq from Arctic Bay attended his convocation at Trent University receiving his Bachelor Degree in Science.

Mr. Speaker, Nunavut Arctic College in Arctic Bay offered a pre-trades math and science course this year. Recently, one of the career development officers from the Department of Education came to Arctic Bay to administer the pre-trades entrance exam. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to announce that eight people passed this test and are now ready to start their apprenticeship.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating all of these individuals on their success. They make us proud. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Members' Statements. Member for Nattilik, Ms. Ugyuk.

**Member's Statement 270 – 3(2):
Reorganizing Health and Social
Services**

Ms. Ugyuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to call upon the government to give serious consideration to establishing separate and distinct departments for health care delivery and for social services delivery. This is an issue that I raised in my first statement in this House. Mr. Speaker, in my view, having one department responsible for service delivery across so many different and demanding fields leads to a crippling inability to deliver those services effectively.

Mr. Speaker, we only need to look at the number of services that are being contracted out to see that our current system cannot manage with the demand. There has been much discussion in this House of the contracting of agency nurses, but the contracting of social workers is an equally disturbing trend.

Mr. Speaker, under its current structure, the Department of Health and Social Services is stretched to its limits. The government is so busy with crisis intervention and putting on bandages that there are very few resources left to do proactive social work and seek solutions. There is not enough investment in healthy lifestyle, advocacy, and prevention strategies for family violence and child abuse, to name just a few examples.

Mr. Speaker, it is clear that Nunavut needs to put a strong focus on addressing

social issues. Nunavut has the highest suicide rate in Canada. Family welfare is not receiving the attention it needs. Communities have lost touch with making themselves healthy and strong.

Mr. Speaker, I recognize that wherever there is high unemployment, there will be outstanding social and economic issues. It is clear that progress in the areas of housing, employment opportunities, and education will help to relieve some of the pressure. However, it takes resources, time, and dedicated effort to heal, to become healthy, and to improve our well-being.

I would like to seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Ms. Ugyuk. The member is seeking unanimous consent to conclude her statement. Are there any nays? There are none. Please proceed, Ms. Ugyuk.

Ms. Ugyuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I urge the government to consider separating departmental responsibility for the delivery of medical care and for the delivery of social services. Both of these areas need independent and dedicated focus, attention, and resource allocation. Under the current system, there will always be competing needs and interests with neither area receiving the complete attention it deserves. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Amittuq, Minister Tapardjuk.

**Member's Statement 271 – 3(2):
Igloolik Akulliq Cup Champions
2010**

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Based on the schedule, most of us will be watching the Stanley Cup playoffs this evening.

I want to speak to a different level of hockey. There was a tournament from April 1 to 6 and the following communities had teams attending: Igloolik, Pond Inlet, Pangnirtung, along with two teams from Clyde River were in Clyde River. Unfortunately, the team Qikiqtarjuaq was sending could not make it due to the weather.

The trophy these teams vied for is called the Akulliq Cup and these teams fought hard to try and win it. I wanted to share the good news that the team from Igloolik was able to win the tournament. They must have been a good team in order to beat all of the other teams, Mr. Speaker. With respect to your local hockey team, they require a bit more training and practice... just kidding.

What I wanted to speak to was the prize money of \$10,000 that was awarded to the Igloolik hockey team for winning was initially going to be divided amongst the players. The players made a decision not to take the funds but to use it to make equipment available for people who can't afford it. They also made a decision to make a contribution to the Zamboni fund. It is due to their zeal to get this Zamboni that led them to make this contribution and they are going to be raising the rest of the monies. We are very proud of people who take those types of initiatives.

Since this was the case, I would like to extend my congratulations to the captain, Wayne Ungalaq, and all of his teammates and we are proud of them. They are role models to the youth, so please keep participating and promoting healthy living by playing your sport. I would like to congratulate them and I would urge the members to congratulate them also. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tapardjuk. Members' Statements. Member for Pangnirtung, Mr. Komoartok.

**Member's Statement 272 – 3(2):
Pangnirtung Youth Activities**

Mr. Komoartok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today, I wish to speak about the high school students in Pangnirtung and what part of their activities were this winter. In particular, our local youth participated in suicide prevention and a position was created with funding from Health Canada.

Lizzie Karpik, who has been working in our school for about a year and five months, was able to set up all sorts of programs, activities, and projects for the school. She was looking to promote cultural pride in the students, including healthy living initiatives. She also started a small engine repair shop. This included the promotion and celebration of the Inuit culture to the students. This included the cultural instructors and other Inuit who work at the school, who have to be thanked for their tireless efforts and dedication towards their fellow Inuit.

These are just a sample of the activities she dealt with. She also organized a session whereby two musicians were brought into our community. The two performers were Gordon Miles and Susan Aglukark. They went to our community as part of the healthy living project, including some recordings for our youth. She worked tirelessly for five months. Today, we can congratulate her and wish her a nice summer break starting on June 25 since she undertook a tremendous amount of work and we are extremely grateful.

Every year, we've had outdoor activities and on-the-land programs for our students. This is the 19th year where the students are taken out on the land and all classes from kindergarten to grade 12 were able to attend this year. There will be a graduation ceremony for the students who will be graduating on June 18. This year, I am happy to state that there will be 19 students completing their graduation and that's an increase if we look at the number of last year's graduates.

With respect to the outdoor program, the people of Pangnirtung would like to thank all of the partners and especially the fundraisers, in particular, the Kakivak Association and the Government of Nunavut's Department of Education. With their contributions, we are able to continue our programs...

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Komoartok, if you would like to conclude your statement, you will have to seek unanimous consent of your colleagues. Mr. Komoartok.

Mr. Komoartok (interpretation): Thank you, my colleagues. We would like to

say "thank you" to the people who made financial contributions, the Kakivak Association and the GN...

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Komoartok, you did not receive unanimous consent yet from your colleagues. You have to first seek unanimous consent to conclude your statement. Mr. Komoartok.

Hold on. I apologize. In order to conclude your statement, you must first seek unanimous consent as you have not been granted consent by your colleagues. Mr. Komoartok.

Mr. Komoartok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In following our protocol, I now seek unanimous consent from my colleagues to conclude my statement. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Komoartok. The member is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his statement. Are there any nays? There are no nays. You may conclude your statement, Mr. Komoartok.

Mr. Komoartok (interpretation): Thank you, my colleagues. It felt like I tripped up, but I am now back on my feet. Thank you.

I would like to reiterate our congratulations to all of the people who work at our schools. They work tirelessly and are very dedicated. We send our children and grandchildren to school and they are under their care for most of the day, so we have to send our gratitude to the teachers who work hard all year and take pride in their efforts.

Again these dedicated individuals will be taking their summer break for approximately two months. We wish them a very nice break where they can recharge and regain their enthusiasm for the next school year. Thank you for allowing me to conclude my statement, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Iqaluit West, Mr. Okalik.

**Member's Statement 273 – 3(2):
Akitsiraq Law Program**

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Too often, I am blamed for things that went wrong and it's nice to see that some things went right. I recognize the current CGS minister's recognition officially that was completed under my watch on time and on budget is finally being recognized. So it's nice to see something...

>> *Applause*

... that we did is being recognized for something worthy.

Another project that we undertook was first started by our first Justice Minister, Jack Anawak, and that was the Akitsiraq Law School Program, which I carried forward as the next justice minister, and we successfully completed this program. We started with 12 students and we finished with 10, which was a very high standard that we set for students. We would like to see a similar program for a four-year program.

I'm puzzled by the questions that are being asked of the law program. Some of these students don't work in law. We graduate teachers, we graduate nurses. Not all of them work in teaching or nursing, but they are working nonetheless and using that expertise to help Nunavummiut out. The same is true for these law students that graduated. So I'm puzzled by these questions that are being set up for these students that want to go to law school.

I am told that there is no money this year. The society that is asking to run this program is not asking for money this year, so that argument does not make much sense for me today. We are setting these standards that we are somehow establishing a university, so we cannot start this program. I have been to a few universities myself. There are about 25,000 students in those facilities. We only have 30,000 citizens here in Nunavut. How would you want to fill a university?

So it is best perhaps to start small and succeed where we can, and focus on the skills that we need today and tomorrow. Let's fill this justice centre with Inuit and reflect the territory that we are, professionals, hopefully, that can work in any field. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

An Hon. Member: Hear, hear!

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Okalik. Members' Statements. Member for Rankin Inlet North and Whale Cove, Mr. Kusugak.

**Member's Statement 274 – 3(2):
Search and Rescue Volunteers of
Rankin Inlet and Whale Cove**

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Rankin Inlet South and Whale Cove. Mr. Speaker, you almost had it right this time.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today, I rise as I would like to thank the people of Rankin Inlet and Whale Cove who comprise the search and rescue teams and emergency workers. Pretty well for most of the winter, they have been receiving phone calls of reports of people missing and people stuck out on the land either due to weather or broken machines. They were able to rescue most of these people.

Whether it's during the day, the middle of the night, or even in a blizzard, the search and rescue teams from Rankin Inlet and Whale Cove have never had any trepidation about searching for any individual who is in trouble. So on behalf of my constituency, I would like to thank the search and rescue teams from both communities and acknowledge them today.

I would like to let the members know that we have extremely competent search and rescue teams in Rankin Inlet and Whale Cove. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Kusugak. The next time, I am going to say "Rankin Inlet South."

Members' Statements. Item 5.
Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery.

Before we get to Item 5... oops, my error. We were on another item (interpretation ends) Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. (interpretation) Now, we are finally on Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Okalik.

**Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the
Gallery**

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We do occasionally receive visits by our fellow Iqaluit residents. I want to acknowledge an individual who just walked in from my riding, Celestine Erkidjuk. Welcome to the Gallery. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Okalik. Welcome to the Gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. (interpretation ends) Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Tununig, Mr. Arvaluk.

Item 6: Oral Questions

**Question 412 – 3(2): Greenland-
Canada Joint Commission on
Polar Bears**

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Environment, Hon. Daniel Shewchuk, and I would like him to eschew the word "Aasii" (not again).

>> *Laughter*

Mr. Speaker, members of the Greenland-Canada Joint Commission on Polar Bear met last week in Ilulissat, Greenland. This joint commission is composed of

representatives of the Nunavut hunters and trappers organizations from the affected communities, the Greenland Home Rule Government, the federal Department of the Environment, the Government of Nunavut's Department of Environment, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, and the Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board.

During this meeting, a recommendation was made on the need for more up-to-date information and data on the Baffin Bay polar bear population. Can the minister indicate what other recommendations such as the one I referred to, if any, were made during this meeting and will he table a report on this meeting? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Minister of Environment, Hon. Daniel Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the member for that question and for his information. I have not received the report from the meeting that has just taken place and I would be more than happy to share that information once I get it with the member.

The member is right that the discussion, I believe, was on the agenda to take place in doing more research and updated research on Baffin Bay, that was part of the agenda, but once I get the information on the results of the meeting, I can provide it to him. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Your first supplementary, Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday, I asked the same minister in the House a question about the Baffin Bay's total allowable harvest of polar bears. I also asked him about what the Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board had recommended on the issue, which he has in his position. The minister made the decision to initiate the reduction in the quota one year earlier in 2010 than what was recommended.

The decision in 2010 to reduce the total allowable harvest on the Baffin Bay population was made with 2008 data. Obviously, more recent data is needed to make a sound decision. Can the minister explain why he made this decision to reduce the TAH using outdated information? Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for the question and concern. Mr. Speaker, the decision was made and recommended to me by the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board on the best information that was available.

The member is right in saying that that information that was provided to them in 2008 is the most recent information that was available. However, part of our management plan in the joint commission is to update that information and that is what we seek and try to do through this joint commission.

It is a priority of the Government of Nunavut to do research on the Baffin Bay and get an updated polar bear estimate as soon as we can. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Your second supplementary, Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On May 22, 2008, the minister at the time stated in the House that “The GN will pursue all available options to ensure that the US listing of the polar bear has a minimum effect on communities relying on income from polar bear sport hunts.” He said that when he communicated the up-listing of the polar bear, they would like to get assistance from Nunavummiut as well as my colleagues here in the House to ensure that this is well planned.

Can the minister explain exactly what assistance his department has provided to the sport hunts outfitters and their assistants in the communities to date? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for his question again. First of all, the listing of the Americans, the United States, has taken to list polar bears as endangered species; we have no control over it. That is their jurisdictional right to do what they choose, I suppose.

The listing of Baffin Bay and the non-detriment finding applies to the European Union. As we all know, it is our intent as a government to keep lobbying our federal government to lift that non-detriment finding and the export ban and show that we are taking management measures to deal with the population.

As far as what we have done since the decline of the TAH, first of all, the TAH will come into effect on July 1 of this year. As the member knows, we have had consultations and visited all communities outlining the alternative programs that are available through this government to assist in promoting and looking at different, adverse ways to promote the tourism industry and assist the community’s outfitters in the respective communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Your final supplementary, Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I understand that part. The minister already knows, as the minister stated his decision not to offer financial assistance to hunters and outfitters affected by the quota reduction, there was not going to be any form of financial assistance.

We are also aware that when these sport hunt tags are filled, they are usually to export the polar bear skins to Europe and the United States. As we all know, there is a ban on their export. Within the same year, the minister had made the decision to reduce ten polar bear tags per year for four years and we know that there will be a reduction of 40 polar bears with regard to the quota. The picture here with regard to these hunters is that all avenues where they can try to create revenue have all now been lost.

For that reason, will the minister commit to reconsidering his decision to not offer financial assistance to hunters and outfitters affected by the quota reduction and polar bear export bans? Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I again thank the member for his concern. I will not commit at this time to revisiting the compensation to affected hunters and outfitters directly by the impact of the reduced TAH.

However, as I have stated before in the House, I have gone to the communities to talk about other programs that we do have in place to assist and help the communities, the hunters, the outfitters, to get through this time that we are going through.

It is in our interest to get an updated polar bear population through this joint commission so that we can manage that polar bear population properly and hopefully we can also, with more information, lift that non-detriment finding and export to European countries again. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Oral Questions. Member for Baker Lake, Mr. Aupaluktuq.

Question 413 – 3(2): Investigation of Incidents in Baker Lake

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Hon. Minister Keith Peterson, Minister of Justice.

Residents of Baker Lake are outraged at recent incidents that have occurred in the community involving the desecration of graves in our cemetery. The most recent incident occurred this past weekend. I want to state very clearly today that the

community stands together in the face of such violations of fundamental decency.

Can the minister confirm for me that the RCMP detachment in the community has been aware of these incidents and that it is investigating them as a matter of the highest priority? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. Minister of Justice, Hon. Keith Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First, I would like to extend my condolences from the Government of Nunavut and all Members of the Assembly to the elder and the family, the elder's grave that was desecrated, and the elders in the community of Baker Lake. I had heard about it early on Monday.

I checked with the chief superintendent of RCMP and he had already been briefed by the detachment. They have made it a priority and they are investigating. Unfortunately, I can't provide details of any investigation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Your first supplementary, Mr. Aupaluktuq.

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to thank the hon. minister for that response as well. It is not the first time that an incident of this nature has occurred in Baker Lake. I have the unfortunate task of being able to bring this attention, but I hope that we can provide some closure and resolution to the community of Baker Lake.

Mr. Speaker, I want to ask: can the minister indicate what resources are

being made available from the government to enable the community to repair the damage done to gravesites? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for asking that question. Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, I am unaware of any resources as the Minister of Justice.

As a former mayor myself, I am familiar that in Cambridge Bay, the cemeteries are a fair distance from town, so we budgeted as a hamlet to maintain the cemeteries for the community. So I would suggest that the Hamlet Council of Baker Lake discuss it and then they approach the Government of Nunavut through their channels. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Your second supplementary, Mr. Aupaluktuq.

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the hon. minister. Mr. Speaker, in recent years, the government installed surveillance cameras at a number of schools as a result of incidents of arson and vandalism throughout the territory. Can the minister indicate if support is available from the government to improve security measures at our territory's cemeteries? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I again thank the member for asking that question. Unfortunately, I

can't provide any information on that again. Similar to my last response, I would suggest that the hamlet council discuss the issue as a council and if they require resources or information, they should approach the Government of Nunavut then perhaps or other organizations for helping with security at the cemetery. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. Oral Questions. Member for Quttiktuq, Mr. Elliott.

Question 414 – 3(2): Transparency at the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Before I ask my oral question, I'm wondering if we could stop the clock and go back to Item 5 on the Orders of the Day, Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Is that not possible? No, okay.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Finance, who is the Chairperson of the government's Public Agencies Council. On March 4 of this year, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police publicly announced and I quote, "During the course of the investigation into the business loans provided by the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation, the RCMP in Iqaluit requested the assistance of the "O" Division (Ontario) Commercial Crime Section where a thorough Forensic Accounting Report was prepared... The investigation was completed and returned to "V" Division (Nunavut) in February 2010. The matter is still under investigation and over the coming weeks, investigators will meet with representatives from" the Department of Finance "and the Public

Prosecution Service of Canada to determine the next course of action...”

Mr. Speaker, that was three months ago. Can the minister update the House today on the outcome of his department's discussions with the RCMP and the Public Prosecution Service? Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister responsible for the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation, Hon. Peter Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe the question was directed to the Minister of Justice. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister of Finance, Hon. Keith Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Elliott for asking the question. I have spoken to the chief superintendent of the RCMP about the file and he had indicated to me at that time that they were going to deliver the files to the Crown Prosecutor's Office for the Crown Prosecution to review and I cannot provide any further update on the status of that file. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Your first supplementary, Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I recall from following the news, the minister played a leading role in bringing the NBCC to account during the previous Legislative Assembly, when he sat on this side of the House. As the minister is aware, the NBCC has not tabled financial statements in this House

since June of 2008 and those were for the 2006-07 fiscal year.

Can the minister indicate what specific actions the government's Public Agencies Council is taking to improve financial management at the NBCC and can he tell us when we will see some current financial statements for this Crown corporation? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Elliott for those questions. Yes, I remember with vivid detail the excruciating work that we had to do with several of my colleagues on that side of the House. It was a very difficult time with NBCC because they were really struggling and it was indeed a positive development when the government of the day made the decision to move the operations and headquarters from Cape Dorset to Iqaluit.

Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, since that time, the NBCC has been undergoing a number of restructurings and they've had difficulties recruiting staff. The board has been working diligently to develop policies. The Minister responsible for NBCC has been interacting with the Public Agencies Council on a regular basis for advice and direction, and I believe they provide monthly reports.

I cannot tell the member when we will be able to be given the financial statements. I would have to defer that part of the question to my colleague from Economic Development and Transportation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Your second supplementary, Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I recall, the minister played a leading role in trying to improve transparency at the NBCC during the previous Legislative Assembly. At that time, his committee strongly recommended that the NBCC follow the practice that is done in other jurisdictions and make its loans public.

Can the minister explain why the NBCC's loans are still kept secret and will he commit to ensuring that the Public Agencies Council takes action to correct this situation, yes or no? Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Elliott for that question. He certainly did a lot of research on my former activities as an MLA in that file.

Mr. Speaker, as a government, as I said, we want to see the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation as strong and effective in helping to develop our economy. I don't think it's a matter of keeping loans secret. There is the issue of confidentiality; there are a number of issues related to that with respect to security and individuals who may have to be contacted. I know the NBCC and the minister are doing work in that regard.

We are committed to transparency, openness, and accountability, but I can't commit to any timeframe for being able to provide details of tabling loan

documents or information on loans. It's certainly something that the department will likely bring to the Public Agencies Council and we will discuss it there. If we can make any progress in that regard, we will certainly inform the member and the House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit West, Mr. Okalik.

Question 415 – 3(2): Implementation of New Language Laws

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Languages.

Yesterday, during Committee of the Whole, it became clear that cuts were made to the department's funding. In addition, with the implementation of the language legislation just starting, we are all aware that we need to change the way we operate, especially to ensure that unilingual Inuktitut-speaking people can keep up with the English-speaking people, particularly with relation to our legislation.

In the beginning, with the budget cutbacks, will that have an impact on the implementation process of the Inuit language legislation? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Okalik. Minister of Languages, Hon. Louis Tapardjuk.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank my colleague for the question. With regard to the specific question, we do not think it will have a large impact

on the implementation of the legislation. It is due to this reason that we will not be implementing a big cut to our budgets, at least within the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth. The majority of these cutbacks are on the travel and accommodations funding and this will impact some of our programs.

Mr. Speaker, the reason why we are doing this is because the Minister of Languages will have to explain the details on the implementation process and to ensure that the public can envision and understand exactly how the implementation process will be. This process and the planning will continue. As I stated, this coming fall, I'll be tabling the implementation plan for the language legislation and regulations and what this process will entail.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to respond by saying that there won't be much of an impact, but at that time, it will be clear once the plans to implement the Act are completed and we can then envision the process. Therefore, I don't expect to see it having an impact on the new language bill... oops, it is now legislation and not a bill anymore, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Thank you, Mr. Okalik. Oral Questions. Member for Pangnirtung, Mr. Komoartok.

Question 416 – 3(2): Suicide Alertness and Intervention

Mr. Komoartok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) My question is for the Hon. Minister of Health and Social Services.

I am very pleased that due to a partnership between the Department of Health and Social Services and our hamlet's Connections for Youth project, this week, 24 *Panniqtuurmiutait* are being trained in suicide alertness and intervention.

The training is being delivered by Inuit trainers using their own language. I am pleased to hear on the CBC Radio that the entire staff at the Nasivvik High School in Pond Inlet, from the janitor to the principal, has received the same suicide alertness and intervention training in their own choice of Inuktitut or English.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the minister on this initiative, which I am told results in Nunavummiut receiving very practical skills in identifying and assisting persons in distress.

Mr. Speaker, my question is: when will the Department of Health and Social Services be able to offer this training to the staff of the high school in Pangnirtung? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Komoartok. Minister of Health and Social Services, Hon. Tagak Curley.

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With regard to his question, I know that the Department of Education is the department who set up this training program for suicide alertness and intervention training. The Minister of Education can make provide a better response to your question. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Curley. Minister of Education, Mr. Louis Tapardjuk.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank Mr. Komoartok for requesting that information. Yes, it is true that there is such a program, albeit this program was set up quite a while back. It's in regard to being alert to suicidal tendencies and intervention training. We have dealt with improvements to the program and it is ongoing, but I cannot tell you when this program will be offered in Pangnirtung and I cannot answer the question as to whether it is included in their plans.

Mr. Speaker, I will take this question regarding the program offering in Pangnirtung as notice. I do believe that there might be an impact in some way or another. I don't want to guess nor do I want to make any commitments without further research, so I'll take this question as notice, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Your question is taken as notice. (interpretation ends) Oral Questions. Member for Quttiktuq, Mr. Elliott.

Question 417 – 3(2): Child and Family Services Act Review

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Health and Social Services, the Hon. Tagak Curley.

I was pleased with his Minister's Statement yesterday. The minister announced the upcoming review of the *Child and Family Services Act*. In April, I noted that an RFP had been issued for a

project manager for the review of the *Child and Family Services Act*. It appeared that the RFP closed without being awarded to any contractor.

Can the minister advise this House if any contracts have been awarded with respect to this review and if so, how many contractors or consultants will be working on the file?
Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister of Health and Social Services, Hon. Tagak Curley.

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With regard to the RFP, we are looking at opening up a permanent position that could start work on getting a project manager so that there will be an ongoing review of the *Child and Family Services Act*. We have received a number of applications.

I can say today that we have not awarded a contract to date. We will be looking to extend the RFP. The reason is that we are looking at making an amendment and putting in the requirement to have an Inuk work with this individual. Due to that reason, I can state that once it's concluded, I will provide the details, but it is currently not quite ready for dissemination. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. (interpretation ends) Your first supplementary, Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank you for that answer. Yesterday, the minister indicated that his department is committed to ensuring that the review is undertaken using an approach that is informed and guided by Inuit knowledge

and Inuit family values. Can the minister clarify what specific steps will be taken to ensure that this approach follows these guidelines? Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister Curley.

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If we follow what we tabled yesterday and if you read it, we are going to ensure that Inuit knowledge and Inuit family values listed in the report are taken into account. There will also be regional meetings with the original attendees present. They are currently on standby and we have not forgotten them. The meetings may recommence in the fall. As well, we have committed to including the representatives at every regional meeting. There will be a representative at every meeting.

Additionally, there is an advisory committee with the deputy minister chairing it, including representatives from the Department of Education and other GN departments involved, as well as the NTI and regional Inuit organizations. We have invited them due to their experience and knowledge about this issue. Most of the work is done in Inuktitut, except in the advisory committee meetings as there are more non-Inuit in that committee.

If any member has any recommendations or improvement suggestions with relation to this process, you can inform my office via written correspondence or a memo to our elders who are on the committee. We will be reporting further on this as we hammer out the details. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Your second supplementary, Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for that response. Like I said, I'm kind of excited about seeing this move forward. I have met with some of the people on the advisory committee and they're actually excited and very happy with the focus and the direction that the Department of Health and Social Services is going on this.

My next question is: can the minister inform this House whether or not the concept of a child and youth representative will be addressed in the course of this review? Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister Curley.

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is for all residents and especially youth, for example, up to 19 years of age who are experiencing crisis or are at risk.

If we look at the *Child and Family Services Act*, we know that it is inadequate based on our understanding of Inuit knowledge and Inuit family values that need to be incorporated into counselling services. All of the powers and responsibilities have been given to the director. Within the community, family protection and counselling services are not readily available and due to that, we are trying to include more training of local Inuit.

What I can state is that the youth portion of this is under the responsibility of our Premier. I believe you're talking about the advocacy and that is not part of these

preparations. We have not included this as we know that it is a standalone matter and it is part of the Premier's responsibilities. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Your final supplementary, Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for that response. I had remembered in questions that I had actually directed to the Premier, she had that the child and youth representative or child and youth advocate.

I know we were trying to steer away from the word "child and youth advocate" and work towards "child and youth representative," she had said to direct the questions in that regard to you, as Minister of Health and Social Services, because of the review of the *Child and Family Services Act*. I will come up with some more questions and ask the Premier in that regard if I have misunderstood something.

In his statement yesterday, the minister stated that the review will include individuals, groups, and organizations throughout the territory who are concerned with the well-being of children and families. Will the review also consider models and best practices from other jurisdictions? Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Curley.

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you. I can say absolutely that that is indeed the model we have adopted. I know that there are also child advocacy models in Nunavik, Northern Québec, and since they are a province, they have

a lot more access to fund those types of programs. We envy the many services that are offered to their residents and we want to see that become available to our residents in Nunavut.

There are other jurisdictions within Canada that will be researched by the technical committee. That will be their main role. What we can say with some certainty is the fact that we will be collaborating with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated and other Inuit organizations. My expectations are that they will provide us many recommendations through the process.

As I stated earlier, the ministers and MLAs, our colleagues, if you have any information or suggestions during this review, it would be of tremendous help for our department. I am referring to this because we want all members to have their opportunity to be involved. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Oral Questions. Member for South Baffin, Mr. Schell.

Question 418 – 3(2): Labour Costs Associated with Nunavut Housing Trust

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the housing minister. There was a written question that was asked of him back on March 4 from the member from Pangnirtung, Mr. Komoartok, and it's in regard to the status of the implementation of the Nunavut Housing Trust Delivery Strategy.

He had it broken down by communities how many units were built. Also, he had

it broken down as to what the cost for the total units are, but they're not broken down, like how much was it for each five-plex, etcetera.

When I was going back and looking at the other question I had asked on March 19 a year ago in regard to their contracting and hiring activities and you look at the labour costs of units, they vary quite a bit from one community to the other.

My question is: what did the Housing Corporation use for an estimate on the labour cost for the entire \$200 million trust fund? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Schell. Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Hon. Hunter Tootoo.

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. Mr. Speaker, I know in different areas that the numbers do vary community by community for labour costs and as I had indicated or said earlier, anything that is stated is the average cost is over, but the numbers that we put out are based on average costs, not by project-specific costs.

Mr. Speaker, back in 2006, when the budget was approved for the Nunavut Housing Trust, the number that was used at the time, I believe, was around one hundred and five thousand dollars for labour per unit. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Your first supplementary, Mr. Schell.

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. According to the figures that are in this

article here, the written question that he responded to from March 19, 2009, if you do the calculations over there, the cheapest that I can see that any five-plex was built was \$135,000 and they go as high as \$175,000. So I'm just trying to figure out why, when they started getting these figures here, there wasn't a warning sign that there is going to be a problem if they were using \$109,000 as their estimate. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Schell. Minister Tootoo.

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just want to clarify for the record that I said \$105,000, not \$109,000.

Mr. Speaker, as I indicated, those numbers vary quite a bit from community to community. Some like the ones that we were asked about there at that level, it varies by each community as to what the labour costs were. So it's looking at an individual community and trying to take that across the board. It would not give you an accurate picture of what the projected costs would be.

So it's something that does vary so much, so it was impossible to use one community and say that's what the numbers are going to be across the board. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Your second supplementary, Mr. Schell.

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well, I wasn't looking at one community, I was looking at about 15 communities, and the cheapest that I can see there is \$135,000 and they go up as high as \$175,000. That was stated like a

couple of years ago, so I find it hard to believe that the minister says that there was no warning sign that they were going to go over on labour. It was there back two years ago. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Schell.
Minister Tootoo.

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I had indicated, the way that the reports and the information were provided to me, the financial reporting on the trust was done on an expenditure basis. So it didn't take into account previous year's expenditures or forecast to completion. The forecast to completion cost is something that's just been done by the new chief financial officer for the corporation and that's when the situation came to light. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Your final supplementary, Mr. Schell.

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In a lot of the communities where the LHOs did the labour for these five-plexes, there is no figure there as far as what the cost was. Can the minister tell us roughly what the cost was when the LHOs did it or whether it was contracted? Was there much of a difference? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Schell.
Minister Tootoo.

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If memory serves me correct, and I will correct myself if I am wrong after conferring with my staff, I think one of the reasons that we're unable to get the information from some of the

LHOs is that they have to wait for their audit to be completed and their year-end to be done before their information can be doled out to us for reporting purposes.

Mr. Speaker, I don't have that information with me, but I can assure and commit to the member that I will look into it, and provide him with the appropriate response to his question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Oral Questions. Member for Pangnirtung, Mr. Komoartok.

Question 419 – 3(2): Update on Waste Management Issues in Pangnirtung

Mr. Komoartok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Hon. Minister of Community and Government Services, Lorne Kusugak.

Yesterday, in the House, I stated that our community was experiencing difficulties stemming from burning refuse at the dump with the fumes overhanging the community, especially on a windy day. When it is calm, it is less of a problem. I know that our hamlet has been working with the regional CGS office from Cape Dorset as well as the regional engineer from Pond Inlet on this issue.

Have there been any updates from your regional office to your headquarters in regard to Pangnirtung's request for an improved dump? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Komoartok. Minister of Community and Government Services, Hon. Lorne Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the member for asking that question. You brought it up yesterday and we noted your concerns.

Dealing with dumps and in burning waste is a growing problem in the majority of the communities. Most of the refuse that is dumped is not consistent, as there are combustible materials and some materials that cannot be burned, and there are many hazardous materials, like paints, old batteries, and so on. There are also metal wastes that are not combustible. With that being the case, we are looking into this challenge.

We are looking in Nunavut, especially in Pangnirtung, how we can make improvements in waste management. When a dump is full, it is not feasible to just build a new one. You're using up land of which there is a limited supply, especially for the people who live on islands. We are currently reviewing how we can better manage our waste system in our communities.

Based on these issues, Pangnirtung was identified as one of the communities that our engineers will visit to inspect the current dumpsite. They are going to look at what works, what requires improvements, whether they should relocate the dump, and so on. We are going to be working on this issue in the upcoming months. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Your first supplementary, Mr. Komoartok.

Mr. Komoartok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister

for that information. I understand that the government is currently reviewing it, but it is becoming a severe crisis in our community's case. Will the minister have more relevant information in the upcoming months? Could the minister give us the information and provide updates on the finding from that review? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Komoartok. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): I cannot tell you exactly what date it will be completed as that is impossible at this time, Mr. Speaker.

I know that this is a slow process and it is quite obvious that this is an urgent situation in your community. I am aware of the urgency of the matter. I have also had a discussion with the mayor about the challenges his community is facing and he identified the problem areas. So I am aware of the challenges facing the community and so do our officials.

What I can state is that there are going to be some options that would deal with community waste management. It is an urgent situation, but the process is slow. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Thank you, Mr. Komoartok. (interpretation ends) Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit West, Mr. Okalik.

Question 420 – 3(2): Country Food Trade in Nunavut

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This question is for the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation.

He made a statement about the Tourism Sector Development Strategy, which I found interesting. We do like to see different opportunities coming out. However in some ways, it would be good to see something more relevant. We appreciate the Inuit culture, especially in our communities, but there is not much available for attractions.

Is it possible for your department to consider trading cultural components of the different communities? I would like to see more work done on inter-settlement trade of country foods. It could provide employment opportunities to our HTO bodies. Even if it is only for Nunavut, a project such as an inter-settlement trade of country foods could boost up the economy and provide some opportunities for the smaller communities that don't have economic opportunities.

I would like the minister to work with the hunters, their organizations, as well as the local business interests so that they could produce a viable plan. This would provide more opportunities for the smaller communities to benefit from their local wildlife resources. I would first like to ask the Minister of Economic Development Transportation if he will consider this. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Okalik. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Hon. Peter Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. Mr. Speaker, as a department, we are looking at that. Of course, we are trying to engage all of the NGOs, or non-governmental organizations, the Inuit organizations, and the communities

in assisting us as a government in talking about the issues and coming forth with a plan on inter-settlement trade of country foods. That's through our Poverty Reduction Plan that we are bringing forth with my department there. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Your first supplementary, Mr. Okalik.

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We know that if we are going to be selling any food products outside of Nunavut, inspections by CFIA are required. If it's going to be remaining in Nunavut, those requirements are not binding. Based on our current practices, the meat can be made available for trade.

I am urging the government to set up an inter-settlement trading of country foods because it could mean an economic boost to the hunters and the harvesters based on his tourism strategy model. The minister stated that they are making plans, so my question is: could the minister provide details on where the plan is and when can we expect to see a detailed plan for this? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Okalik. Minister Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. We have already contacted an energy department down in Ottawa. This relates to refrigeration technologists.

We see community freezers as being an integral part in dealing with internal country foods trade and we have incorporated that into our Poverty

Reduction Strategy. These plans are ongoing and within a month or so, I should have an updated report on the current status of our situation with this Anti-poverty Strategy.

Included in there are some plans and ideas on the issue of how to handle these inter-settlement trading of foods. I know there are some requirements where the food has to be inspected, but for the most part, I believe we are looking into the legislation for that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Your second supplementary, Mr. Okalik.

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With all of the technology and transportation systems improving on a daily basis, I envision caribou coming out of Rankin Inlet and being available in our community. From your community of Clyde River, Mr. Speaker, there is seal meat and *Maktaa* that can be traded with other communities on a daily basis.

There are opportunities, but the only things we seem to be focusing on are the barriers. There are freight costs that are being offered by airlines where they have cheaper rates for country foods. We ought to put them in an entire package and make it a priority down the road. There are also other opportunities and benefits for everyone, especially my constituents here in Iqaluit who sometimes clamour for certain country foods. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Okalik. I didn't hear a question, but

you're welcome to respond, Minister Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that comment. My department is playing a key role. I will be the co-chair of this Poverty Reduction Strategy and we're hoping to bring in partners from all over, including the communities. For internal trade of country foods, we see that as a key priority within the strategy.

It is a matter of keeping the food safe. We can't bring in a large amount of caribou from any location to a place where there are no freezer systems, so we're looking into that closely. We're working with all of the other Inuit organizations and other departments in doing that efficiently and effectively. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Your final supplementary, Mr. Okalik.

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the minister for working on the completion of these plans. Today, most communities have community freezers which can be used to store the food and most communities have daily flights to Iqaluit. We are able to receive the food no matter what community it comes from within one day.

Looking for community freezers seems to be senseless, especially when you come from the North. When you order meat, you expect it to arrive the very next day. We should look for an opportunity where the people can make their phone call and order so that it would be possible to have inter-community trade. This is a ready

solution that just requires some more work to make it a reality. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Okalik. Although I didn't hear a question, it's at your discretion to respond, Minister Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that comment. Yes, absolutely. We live in the North and for eight months out of the year, everything is usually frozen, but when handling food, you need to take some precautions. It is necessary to keep the food safe and it's not only going to be in the wintertime where there is going to be inter-settlement trade. We're hoping to do that year-round, not just in the winter season. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Oral Questions. Member for Baker Lake, Mr. Aupaluktuq.

Question 421 – 3(2): Northern and Family Residency Program

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Health and Social Services, the Hon. Minister Tagak Curley.

Mr. Speaker, earlier this month, the federal Minister of Health, the Hon. Leona Aglukkaq, Member of Parliament for Nunavut, announced the expansion of the Northern and Remote Family Medicine Residency Program. Programs such as this encourage doctors to live and work in remote and rural communities.

I have noted that the Government of Nunavut is a partner in this project. Can the minister update this House on what role the Government of Nunavut plays in the organization and delivery of this program? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. Minister of Health and Social Services, Hon. Tagak Curley.

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the Member for Baker Lake for asking the question. The federal government program is very good and beneficial. They have considered Nunavut's needs as well.

I can also tell you that our medical team is participating and they provide advice on what would be the best method. They have been included in preparing policies and participated in these meetings. I can tell you that they have considered having at least one doctor moved to the North through the University of Manitoba and this is in reference to the Jack Hills Northern Medical Unit. They have also taken part in these meetings to enable a doctor to work up north. They asked if they could provide assistance for three weeks.

They have been thinking of having the doctor go to Baker Lake, but as a department, we believe that they should stay over three weeks because we need to have a resident doctor in that community and that is something we have looked into Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Your first supplementary, Mr. Aupaluktuq.

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the hon. minister. I am sure that all of Nunavut is looking forward to this partnership as well to ensure that we have enhanced quality of service to the people of Nunavut. It's good as legislators to see that there are partners being created and it's good to see the hon. minister reaching out and talking with other out-of-territory partnerships with other provinces.

The additional funding that was announced for the Northern Residency Program will provide medical training for an additional 15 residents with one resident position going to Nunavut, one to the NWT, and the remainder to northern Manitoba. Given the great need for full-time medical professionals in our territory, especially in the Kivalliq region, can the minister clarify how the distribution of residency positions was determined? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. (interpretation ends) Minister Curley.

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With regard to the federal government's program, it is still being worked on and is still not complete. Once it's completed, they will inform me as it relates to Ms. Aglukkaq's announcement. Our role is just on an advisory basis as the Nunavut government.

We toured the High Arctic and that is one of their priorities, to have a resident doctor, especially after there had been a doctor in Pond Inlet. According to our jurisdiction, we have stated, Mr. Speaker, that we need to start planning

ahead as to where the doctor should be located.

I can only speak to Nunavut and our current situation is that we have one in Arviat and the doctor visits Baker Lake. If funding is available in the future, I believe that there should be a doctor in Baker Lake. That's what I alluded to. We will consider that and it's part and parcel to that. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Your second supplementary, Mr. Aupaluktuq.

Mr. Aupaluktuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for his response. The community of Baker Lake is one of the fastest growing communities and not only the fourth largest community in Nunavut but it also has the highest proportion of elders per capita across the territory.

On more than one occasion, I have raised the need for a full-time medical practitioner as well as the need for more nurses in the community of Baker Lake. The minister stated that they have considered the community for future medical practitioners and I am quite pleased with that. I also support that initiative.

However, I want to ask this question: will the minister commit to supporting the placement of the new medical resident position into the community of Baker Lake and if not, why not? We need that staff in our community because the population is growing, especially with the mining sector.

Although we receive agency nurses, it's evident that we need a resident, full-time

medical practitioner. So therefore, I would like to ask the minister for the record. I am in full support of that and I will ask the minister further questions. Will he be supporting the placement of a new resident medical position in the community of Baker Lake? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. Minister Curley.

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can tell the member that we are concerned about all of the residents of Nunavut with respect to the provision of medical practitioners in Nunavut and all of our residents have to be properly cared for.

If we have adequate funding, we want to provide support to Nunavutmiut by providing more medical practitioners. We have to start reducing sickness and we will work to the best of our abilities to deal with that. Although we continue to have shortages of doctors and nurses in the communities, we are working within our capabilities to resolve some of these challenges.

Based on the community's request, as well as the advice by our team, we have looked at having a medical practitioner in the larger centres. As we are slowly rolling out our plan, although the process is time consuming, I fully expect that there will be a full-time medical practitioner in Baker Lake. Our medical team has been focusing on the community. The director of medical affairs, Dr. Sandy MacDonald, is also considering that option.

According to the way we progress with our plan, it's not just for the community

of Baker Lake. Once we have the plan completed, I believe that I will be able to table it in the House in the future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Your final supplementary, Mr. Aupaluktuq.

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Hon. Minister. Will the minister commit to providing this House with an update on the Northern and Remote Family Residency Program and on any progress in encouraging more doctors to live and work in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. Minister Curley.

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I stated earlier, the team is working on a plan through meetings with different partners. Once I get the plan, I can table that information. If we're not in session, I can do a backdoor tabling.

I expect that shortly after the federal government provides a response on their remote aboriginal health program and their northern residency program, I believe our plans will be completed in short order but not together. However, I believe that the federal government will want to provide support similar to ours and we thank them for their support.

As I stated before, once the plan is completed, I will provide you with that information here in the House or by way of correspondence. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Back to our agenda. Item 7. Written Questions.

Item 8. Returns to Written Questions.
 Item 9. Replies to Opening Address.
 Item 10. Petitions. Item 11. Reports of Standing and Special Committees. Item 12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Member for Iqaluit West, Mr. Okalik.

Item 13: Tabling of Documents

**Tabled Document 176 – 3(2):
 Information Concerning Qulliq
 Energy Corporation Job
 Competition**

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Once again, I find myself in the position of having to table disturbing information that has been provided to me by a fellow Iqaluit resident concerning the hiring practices of the Qulliq Energy Corporation.

I will have questions for the Minister responsible for QEC at tomorrow's sitting on this matter. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Can we have that document brought forward to the table, please.

(interpretation ends) Tabling of Documents. Member for Baker Lake, Mr. Aupaluktuq.

**Tabled Document 177 – 3(2):
 Correspondence Concerning the
 Government of Nunavut's
 Uranium Development and Mining
 Management Plan**

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table today a copy of my correspondence of March 24, 2010,

which was addressed to the Premier and the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation. My letter concerned the Government of Nunavut's plans for a Uranium Development and Mining Management Plan.

I hope to receive a reply to my letter in the near future, which I look forward to tabling in the House for the benefit of all members as well as Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. Tabling of Documents. Mr. Elliott.

**Tabled Document 178 – 3(2):
 Operation Nanook 2010
 Information Brief**

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to table today a copy of the Department of National Defence's Information Brief on Operation Nanook 2010. As members will recall, I spoke earlier in the session on the success of this year's operation and I encourage all members to review this information with care. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Tabling of Documents. Hon. Hunter Tootoo.

**Tabled Document 179 – 3(2): Qulliq
 Energy Corporation; Eight
 Annual Report, Year Ending
 March 31, 2009**

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am very pleased to be able to cross something off your list that you tabled the other day, the statutory tabling requirements, and table today the following document: Qulliq Energy

Corporation: Eight Annual Report, Year Ending March 31, 2009.

The Inuktitut version translation is currently under review by the Office of the Auditor General and will be made available as soon as it is approved by her. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Tabling of Documents. Hon. Eva Aariak.

Tabled Document 180 – 3(2): F/P/T Ministerial Report to the Legislative Assembly, Northern Premiers’ Forum, Whitehorse, May 13 to 14, 2010

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I would like to table the following document: F/P/T Ministerial Report to the Legislative Assembly, Northern Premiers’ Forum, Whitehorse, May 13 to 14, 2010. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Madam Premier. Tabling of Documents. Hon. Eva Aariak.

Tabled Document 181 – 3(2): Communiqué Northern Premiers’ Forum, Whitehorse, May 14, 2010

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table the following document: Communiqué Northern Premiers’ Forum, Whitehorse, May 14, 2010. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Tabling of Documents. Hon. Eva Aariak.

Tabled Document 182 – 3(2): Annual Report for the Nunavummit Kiglisiniartiit, 2007-2008

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is the last tabling of document from me. Today, I would like to table the following document: Annual Report for the Nunavummit Kiglisiniartiit, 2007-2008. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Tabling of Documents. Hon. Hunter Tootoo.

Tabled Document 183 – 3(2): Qulliq Energy Corporation: Letter of Expectation 2010-2011

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to be able to table the following document: Qulliq Energy Corporation: Letter of Expectation 2010-2011. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Tabling of Documents. Hon. Daniel Shewchuk.

Tabled Document 184 – 3(2): Towards a Representative Public Service, Statistics as of March 31, 2010

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table the following document: Towards a Representative Public Service. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Tabling of Documents. Hon. Keith Peterson.

**Tabled Document 185 – 3(2): Nunavut
Liquor Licensing Board, Annual
Report 2007-2008**

**Tabled Document 186 – 3(2): Legal
Services Board of Nunavut Annual
Report for 2008-2009**

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table two documents and only stand up once.

I would like to table the following document: Nunavut Liquor Licensing Board, Annual Report 2007-2008.

I would also like to table the following document: Legal Services Board of Nunavut Annual Report for 2008-2009. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Tabling of Documents. Item 14. Notices of Motions. Item 15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Item 16. Motions. Item 17. First Reading of Bills. Hon. Tagak Curley.

Item 17: First Reading of Bills

**Bill 35 – Licensed Practical Nurses
Act – First Reading**

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Kugluktuk, that Bill 35, *Licensed Practical Nurses Act*, be read for the first time. (interpretation) Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. The motion is in order. Question has been called. All those in favour, raise your hand. Opposed. The motion is carried. Bill 35 has received first reading.

First Reading of Bills. Hon. Keith Peterson.

**Bill 37 – Tobacco Damages and
Health Care Costs Recovery Act –
First Reading**

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Rankin Inlet and Whale Cove, that Bill 37, *Tobacco Damages and Health Care Costs Recovery Act*, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. The motion is in order. Question has been called. All those in favour, raise your hand. Opposed. The motion is carried. Bill 37 has received first reading.

First Reading of Bills. Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. Item 19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. (interpretation) Bills 15, 16, 17, 20, 26, 29, 31, 32, and 36, and Tabled Documents 13 – 3(2), 66 – 3(2), 99 – 3(2), and 100 – 3(2) with Mr. Schell in the Chair.

Before we proceed with our break, we have an exhibition out in the foyer. Please go see the exhibition presented by the students from Nakasuk School in the foyer. We will take a 20-minute break.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>> *House recessed at 15:25 and
Committee resumed at 16:00*

**Item 19: Consideration in Committee
of the Whole of Bills and Other
Matters**

Chairman (Mr. Schell): I would like to call the committee meeting to order. In Committee of the Whole, we have the following items to deal with: Bills 15, 16, 17, 20, 26, 29, 31, 32, 36, and Tabled Documents 13 – 3(2), 66 – 3(2), 99 – 3(2), and 100 – 3(2). What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Aupaluktuq.

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We wish to continue with the review of the following supplementary appropriation bills: Bill 31 and Bill 29. We will then proceed with the following as per our sessional work plan, covering Bill 20, Bill 32, Bills 15, 16, 17, 26, and 36. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. Are we in agreement to continue with the review of Bill 31?

Some Members: Agreed.

**Bill 31 – Supplementary
Appropriation (Operations &
Maintenance) Act, No. 2, 2010-
2011 – Consideration in
Committee**

Chairman: Does the committee agree that Minister Peterson and his officials go to the witness table?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Sergeant-at-Arms, could you please escort Minister Peterson and his officials to the witness table.

Minister Peterson, for the record, could you please introduce your officials.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my right is Peter Ma, Deputy Minister of Finance, and to my left is Jeff Chown, Director of Expenditure Management. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Peterson. Members, we were on page 11, Curriculum and [School] Services. Total Curriculum and [School] Services. Are there any questions? Mr. Okalik.

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We're all aware that we Inuit want to use our language and we want to teach Inuktitut within the schools. The elders have been working on the curriculum indefinitely for quite some time that will be incorporated into the schools.

Will this cutback impact the operations of the curriculum and school services? If we slow down, we would be reverting back to the old system and could conceivably lose that information. I do not want to see this step back. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Okalik. Minister Peterson

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Okalik for that question. I would like to turn that question over to my colleague, Minister Tapardjuk, the Minister of Education. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Peterson. Mr. Tapardjuk.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank the member for asking that

question. Yesterday, I spoke to this issue with regard to travel. The travel aspect of the department will be the most impacted during the budget cutbacks. We wanted to set up some meetings, but with respect to holding meetings and gatherings, it eats up a lot of funding to pay for travel, accommodation, and so on.

The Department of Education had to implement budget cutbacks due to the government shortfall. However, Mr. Chairman, I can tell you that in spite of that, we will look for ways as to how we can continue the curriculum and school services without having to travel or meet face to face while being able to work together. Although there is going to be an impact on this category, we're looking for alternative solutions.

I believe that we know how to improve expenditures and undertake cost savings. That's the response I can provide, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Tapardjuk. Mr. Okalik, no? Are there any other questions or comments? If not, we will go to Total Curriculum and School Services. -\$1,076,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: We will move to page 12. Education. Operations and Maintenance. Not Previously Authorized. Career and Early Childhood Services. Total Career and Early Childhood Services. -\$43,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: School Operations. Total School Operations. -\$494,000. Do you agree? Mr. Okalik.

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask a question on how the budget cutbacks have been determined in this section. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Okalik. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Okalik for that question. I will defer that question to Minister Tapardjuk. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Peterson. Minister Tapardjuk.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, my colleague. Obviously, this will impact travel and transportation. Perhaps half of the travel budget for the school operations was cut back for our senior level staff that use it to visit the schools.

One thing that's going to be noticeable is that we are trying to do budget cutbacks in order to do consultation tours for the *Education Act*. The implementation process won't be done according to the listed goal and that's where the impact will be felt most, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Tapardjuk. Are there any other questions or comments? If not, Total School Operations. -\$494,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Total Department. - \$2,692,000. Mr. Okalik.

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Out of principle, I cannot support these cuts. So I will ask for a recorded vote so that my constituents know about my principles on education. So I ask for a recorded vote on this matter. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Okalik. A recorded vote has been requested. All those in favour, please stand and sit down when I call your name. This is in regard to -\$2,692,000.

Mr. Komoartok.

Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Hunter... oh, Tootoo. I'm sorry.

>>Laughter

I forgot.

Mr. Shewchuk.

Mr. Curley.

Mr. Taptuna.

Madam Premier.

Mr. Taptuna...

>>Laughter

Oh, my goodness.

Minister Tapardjuk.

Sorry about that.

Mr. Kusugak.

Mr. Peterson.

Member for Nanulik.

>>Laughter

Mr. Rumbolt.

Ms. Ugyuk.

All those opposed, please stand and then sit down when I call your name.

Mr. Okalik

Mr. Arvaluk.

All those abstaining, please stand and sit down when I call your name. There are none. The motion is carried. The budget item for Education is approved in the amount of -\$2,692,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: We will move on to page 13. Environment. Operations and Maintenance. Not Previously Authorized. Corporate Management. Total Corporate Management. -\$42,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Program Management. Total Program Management. -\$563,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Total Department. - \$605,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Go on to page 14. Community and Government Services. Operations and Maintenance. Not Previously Authorized. Capital Planning and Technical Services. Total Capital Planning and Technical Services. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In regard to the \$1.9 million, I was wondering if we can get a breakdown as to what's being cut. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Elliott for that question about what's being scaled back. I don't have that level of detail with me. I will ask my colleague, Mr. Kusugak, to answer the question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Peterson. Minister of Community and Government Services.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The cuts for the Capital Planning and Technical Services on that, about \$284,000 in travel, \$614,000 in salary and benefits, \$10,000 in purchase services, \$136,000 in materials and supplies, \$858,000 in contracts, computer software/hardware, \$47,000, and fees and payments, \$8,000. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Kusugak. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Previously, the government was looking for \$11 million to do better planning and whatnot and now we are cutting back on

this section. With the \$96 million in capital carryover, will this affect this scale back? I guess that's what the minister said. Will that affect any of the planning in terms of figures and will it slow down any projects? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Elliott for the question. I don't know if it will have any major impact. We do have \$97 million in capital carryovers and projects that have to proceed this year, but I will have my colleague, Minister Kusugak, answer the question. He has more details on it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Peterson. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Before I say anything, just to start with the fact that the reduction in our whole department will have an impact, but we can handle the impact if it is not a long-term issue. In terms of dealing with it for this fiscal year, our department will be able to handle the decrease for a short term, for the year.

We have very hard-working staff. Some people will be doing extra duties and ensuring that there is minimal to no negative impact on that issue, Mr. Chairman. Thank you very much.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Kusugak. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Kusugak, for the answer. The reason I'm asking is because I am thinking into the future.

We have a whole year that we will still be doing planning and whatnot. I wouldn't want cutbacks in travel and stuff like that to become excuses as to why things are not being done.

As an example, I was recently in Resolute Bay. There was supposed to be community consultations by your department to talk about utilidors. I was sitting across from the senior administrative officer when he got a phone call from someone in your department saying that they would not be coming to do the consultation because they had just been told about travel cutbacks and they wouldn't be able to travel to do the community consultations.

I wouldn't want this to continue to be an excuse for a consultation to not happen. I know that with the cutbacks, meetings won't be able to happen, but I would like some assurances as to what will happen over the next year. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you for that. I don't think our department and staff will come up with excuses to not be doing work. There are times, unfortunately, whether there are cutbacks or not, there are very legitimate reasons why certain projects end up being delayed or things change. I don't think our department will be coming up with any excuses in that term, but we will be working diligently. We will be on the phone more often than we would.

Unfortunately, there will be less face-to-face because of this, but our department will ensure that it has a minimal impact

on the Capital Planning and Technical Services part. We had to ensure that we come up with our share, it's important to, and we made cuts in our department where we thought it would have the least negative impact and that's where these numbers come from, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Kusugak. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that answer. I don't know whether Minister Peterson or you would be answering the question, but even with the answer that you gave, from our side, we're saying that there are cutbacks or there's money that's being... what did you say?

Each department is being asked to give up 3 percent of their budget and the government is assuring us that programs will not suffer. If you can guarantee that, then I will be happy, but I still will not be totally convinced that programs will be delivered with the cutbacks. If they are, then that means when we sat down last time to do the process of doing our budgeting, we gave each department 3 percent too much money. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Mr. Chairman, that's why I want to reiterate what I said at the start of the very first answer I gave my colleague.

I think our department will do its best to manage it for this fiscal year. I don't think our department would be able to survive such a cut in reducing everything over the long term. If it's going to be a

two, three, or four-year thing, I don't think our department would be able to handle that, but in terms of a one-year issue, our department will do its utmost to ensure that no programs suffer.

I will just keep repeating that it's important to realize that this is a one-year fix. Our staff and our department will do its utmost to ensure that all programs it has to deliver will be delivered understanding with this cut. Beyond this year, then it would be a whole different debate from my department. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Kusugak. Are there any other questions or comments? If not, we will go to Capital Planning and Technical Services. Total Capital Planning and Technical Services. -\$1,976,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Community Support. Total Community Support. -\$663,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Directorate. Total Directorate. -\$813,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Government Services. Total Government Services. -\$1,328,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Safety and Protection Services. Total Safety and Protection Services. -\$399,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Total Department. - \$5,179,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Go to page 15. Economic Development and Transportation. Operations and Maintenance. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a question regarding breakwaters or wharfs. It states here that there will be \$806,000 reallocated from the budget of Economic Development and Transportation to the Nunavut Housing Corporation.

Just a few minutes ago, there was some discussion about the possibility of building community freezers and also inter-settlement trade of country food. Is this reallocation of \$806,000 going to have an impact on those kinds of initiatives? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Arvaluk for the question. Could Mr. Arvaluk direct us to the page and the bill that he is referring to? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Peterson. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: I had it open somewhere. It's on page 15, Supplementary Appropriation, 2010-2011. Operations and Maintenance. Economic Development. Item 1. Page 15. I think that is where you were directing me to, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Arvaluk for that question. I apologize that he's asking for details, but the numbers weren't matching up while we were going item by item. But I'll turn that question over to my colleague, Minister Taptuna, to answer. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Peterson. Minister Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for that question. No, it's not going to affect the breakwaters, the community freezers, and the inter-community trade of country foods that we were talking about earlier. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Taptuna. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What initiatives or positions then will be cut back or cancelled due to the reduction of \$806,000 from the Department of Economic Development and Transportation? (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Minister Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Arvaluk for that question. There is going to be \$250,000 coming from the Strategic Investments Program. That \$250,000 is a small amount from a program that has been allocated \$3.9 million. There is \$200,000 coming from the Strategic Opportunities Fund and \$300,000 coming in from the

vacant positions that we have within the department. The \$56,000 is coming in from the Arts and Crafts Strategy. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Taptuna. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: This might be a little bit late in raising the concern. We know that the identification as to where the money is going from that department is clear right from the opening statement of the finance minister that it's to reallocate to complete the Nunavut Housing Trust. We all know that every single one of them states that. What we need is information beforehand at the time.

The minister is telling us right now is that it's \$250,000 from the Strategic Investments Program, \$300,000 from PYs, and fifty thousand dollars from arts, etcetera. If this is information that we needed, then we would simply ask why these are being taken off rather than having to go through every single line and say, "What is being cut off?" (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) That's just a comment.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. That was just a comment, but if you want to comment on that, Minister Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for that comment. The reason why they're being taken off is that we can actually mitigate some of these programs to minimize the impact of our contribution to the Nunavut Housing Corporation. Every department had to do that. These programs and the PYs are manageable

within a period of one year. Like my colleague said, the Minister of CGS, it will have an impact and we will work to minimize the impacts.

That was the department's share for the situation that we're in. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Taptuna. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank my colleague, Minister Taptuna, for that explanation.

Just to address Mr. Arvaluk's concern, we understand his concern, but with a department like Economic Development and Transportation, we probably could have provided a bit more detail down at the space below. For a department like CGS, where there are a lot of different categories, it would have been very difficult to write that level of detail in the document. It was duly noted and we will take it under consideration for future development of these types of documents. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Peterson. I don't have anybody else here, so we will go back to Economic Development. Item 1. Total Economic Development. -\$606,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Corporate Management. Item 2. Total Corporate Management. -\$200,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Total Department. -\$806,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: We will go to page 16. Nunavut Arctic College. Operations and Maintenance. Not Previously Authorized. Nunavut Arctic College. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In regard to the \$726,000 that is being allocated to help with the Nunavut Housing Trust, I was wondering if the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Arctic College could explain what the breakdown is as to where the money was found. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank the member for that question. Yes, I will.

The total of \$726,000 is broken down between the delay of two vacant positions and their compensation and benefits, a reduction in the travel and overtime restrictions have been put on, contract services, and the Fur Production and Design Program that we're in the planning stage to implement in two communities has been deferred. Also, the Inuit Language Specialist Program that was to go ahead, but there is insufficient demand to go on with that program. That makes up for all of the \$726,000. If he wants a breakdown by dollars for those, I can give him those too. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Shewchuk. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In terms of Contact Services, is that

specifically one contract or is that contract for educational services? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's a contract for computers worth \$75,000. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Shewchuk. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In terms of the computers, were they heading for community learning centres to be used by students or were they for departments to be used by instructors? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's right. They will not impact any programs at all. They were computer upgrades for students and instructors but we can go without. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Shewchuk. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is sort of what I was getting at before when I was saying that if certain programs were not going to be delivered and whatnot. Obviously, there are two communities that will not have the fur production program or fur preparation program happening. I'm not sure if I got the wording right for the program, but that funding will not be available, so

those two communities will not have the program this year. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The programs were not fully planned and developed and communities were not selected, so they were not going to be delivered this year anyway. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Shewchuk. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So I guess Nunavut Arctic College knew that they would have a carryover of funding in their O&M for those two projects. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Mr. Chairman, I'm not quite sure how to answer the question, if they knew that they would have a carryover. The funding was there to be used in the planning and design stages, and we can do without that right now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Shewchuk. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that explanation because again I'm still trying to wrap my head around it.

Nunavut Arctic College is saying they need X number of dollars to do those two programs and run the programs, I thought, and you are saying that you are not going to offer them. So you would

have come at the end of the year saying, "We have no money left in our budget." If I understand what you're saying, they were going to plan those two programs this year to offer them next year. Is that correct?

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is my understanding of that too. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Shewchuk. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That was the last of the questions that I had. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. We will go back to Nunavut Arctic College. Item 1. Total Nunavut Arctic College. -\$726,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Total Department. - \$726,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Now go back to Schedule on page 2. Schedule 1. Operations and Maintenance. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Before we make an agreement on page 2, I was hoping to ask general questions to the Minister of Finance in terms of the money that's been allocated. Is this the correct place to ask that? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If Mr. Elliott wants to ask me some questions, I am willing to answer them if I can. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Peterson. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again, in the past, when we were doing our budgeting, sometimes I had a hard time with the government departments saying that they are working with a minimum budget and we pass it. Now we passed the first capital budget in October, then we passed in March the O&M, and now with the Nunavut Housing Trust overspending, we have been able to find \$60 million.

To me, that just brings up a whole bunch of questions about the way we budget our money, let alone questions about Nunavut Housing Corporation in terms of how they spend their money and whatnot. In terms of the way we do our budgeting here in the House and when we approve these, I am trying to look at this as a good exercise in the sense that if we can cut 3 percent from every department, then that tells me that we are looking at ways of saving money for the government next fiscal year.

We heard from Minister Kusugak and I think Minister Taptuna was sort of alluding to the fact that this is a one-year thing and next year, we want a full budget again. Is that the Department of Finance's way of thinking? Are you going to maintain the same budgets next year or are you going to be asking departments to cut back 3 percent and look at other ways of saving money? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Elliott for his question. Managing government funds is a lot different than if you are in the private sector or personal. It still is cash management, that you're always budgeting and planning a year ahead.

For the most part, we're planning capitals now for October for the next fiscal year and yet, we won't start the main estimates until the fall for the next fiscal year. How it all starts is it starts with the Financial Management Board. We set targets and we set directions for the deputy ministers and other officials to plan the budget. It starts with us. Essentially, we can place caps on what departments want to do.

At the Department of Finance, of course, we work daily with the money. A lot of it is cash management and cash flows, so we know where the money is going to. We work with variance reports and we work with the departments. So by nature, we are very conservative and cautious at the Department of Finance, and I have been signalling for the last several months that we have to be prudent and then people were actually calling me "Captain Prudence" now. I am thinking ahead to next year and the year beyond.

The fact of the matter is that 93 percent of our funds or revenues come from the federal government through our TFF, Territorial Formula Financing Agreement, and through other contributions. If any of those were to be affected, we would be seriously affected at our level. I know the Government of Canada is into reviewing their programs

and services and they are probably going to make some cuts. I am worried that those cuts will trickle down to the provinces and territories.

I know on the same hand, the Government of Nunavut has been expanding every year. Since 1999, our annual budget has more than doubled in 11 years. At some point, common sense tells you that you have to start being more efficient and more effective, utilize your funds better, look at your programs, look at your services, and see if they still match the needs that you had developed them for ten years ago or even five years ago.

We are telling the departments to start to think to budget to actual. If your five-year history is that you're only going to be at 75 percent capacity in terms of staff, why ask for 100 percent? You will ask for 75 percent and then we will use the other 25 percent for other programs that can be spread throughout the government or throughout all of the departments and re-profile them for other important programs and projects. I see that that's happening.

Our Department of Finance led the way last year when we did budget to actual and several other departments have done it. Others are moving in that direction. This exercise here has proven useful and helpful to us. It has provided us with like a whack on the side of the head, I guess, that we've got to be prepared to deal with issues like this where there's an urgent demand for large injections of cash. Where is it coming from? Our officials have worked with the Department of Finance officials and we set the 3 percent and they found 3 percent.

My colleagues are quite right to say that in the long term, it may affect them. We're going to continue to work with officials and work with my colleagues at the Cabinet level and the FMB level to see how we can do the program reviews, do the review of expending and hiring, put more restrictions on certain activities, and certainly monitor sole source contracts and other contracts. The members were grilling us last week on it and that's been quite expensive.

I'm convinced in my mind that we can save a lot of money if we just learn to be more efficient with our money, plan better, and put more controls in place. So when a worst case scenario unfolds with the TFF next year, if we get the same amount of money, we will be prepared. If we get less... well, I hope that we don't get less, but if we get less, then we may be prepared.

With us having gone through this exercise and if we do get less next year, then we will be able to address it because we've got this experience in working with all of the members. It's important to manage your money. A lot of the money that is coming through this exercise right now has come from travel, vacant positions, or positions that have become vacant, so the funds were there.

Certain departments, like the Department of Education, because they're mandated to provide a certain level of services, they were able to contribute less, but they have contributed more in the past. The Department of Finance, because we're a central agency and we have centrally administered funds, couldn't contribute as much.

I'm hopeful that we will learn from this exercise and I am hopeful that officials out there will be more prudent in managing their departmental budgets. I would love to be in a position to tell Mr. Elliott that I guarantee certain things, but I can't guarantee because I would just be speculating.

What I want to tell him, his colleagues, and other members is that this has been a good lesson for all of us on the government side and a wake-up call that we have to manage our money and manage it wisely. We have made those commitments throughout the last week and a bit through questions and through the media. I know that Minister Tootoo has done media interviews and made those statements.

As the Minister of Finance, I have issued the directive. I'm working very closely with the Public Agencies Council officials, the members on there, to put even more oversight onto Crown agencies. So accountability is ramping up very quickly. I appreciate the scrutiny and oversight by the various standing committees that have worked with us through this exercise. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Peterson. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that response. Is the FMB looking at re-evaluating all of the PYs within the Government of Nunavut to see, again, in looking at how we can better save money?

Again I don't have a full understanding because I'm not on the other side where the ministers are and not working with

the day-to-day running of a department, but from my side, I know one of the things I was probably quoted as saying was that we have these vacant positions that have been vacant for five years. Why we can't just get rid of them?

Again, it makes you think, "Well, if they're on the slate as being a person who should be hired, maybe they're there for a reason." Again we're actually going into the other issue that we will be debating and talking about in September about human resources and asking people to take on responsibilities of one or two positions to try and maintain the day-to-day operation of running their department or running of a department within the government.

In terms of ways of saving money, is your department looking at the PYs that are given out and whether there are any that can be gotten rid of? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Elliott for the question. Mr. Chairman, through the annual budgeting exercise with the main estimates, we're always doing that. The Department of Finance is working with all of the departments, but it's up to individual departments to review the PYs and whether they need certain positions to deliver certain programs.

At the FMB level, we have made a decision with respect to PY controls, what we call person year controls. We lifted that, so we gave flexibility to deputy ministers. If they have a position that is funded, they could freeze that position and then create another position

and fund it. The department works very closely with the individual departments. They would be required to work closely with the Department Human Resources and that. So we have given that authority to deputy ministers to manage their PYs.

So if there is a position that hasn't been staffed for a year, there's probably a very good reason to freeze it rather than asking for funding for a new position. You would freeze that other position and ask for permission or approval to use the funds for a new position rather than asking for funds for a new position. We have been actively engaged in that type of activity. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Peterson. I would just like to remind all of the members here that we should keep it to whatever is on page 2 when you're asking questions. We don't want to go back to stuff that we already agreed to. So if it's on page 2, you can ask a question. Otherwise, I would prefer if you didn't. Thank you. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I hope that wasn't directed towards me because I know, as we went through each of the departments, there were compensation and benefits for every department where money was allocated for certain positions and it was scraped aside to come up with it. So it's sort of a general question for every department within there. My concern is there are needed programs out there. There are employees who are working their hardest.

Again, to me, I can understand why Mr. Okalik and Mr. Arvaluk were not in favour of cutting funding towards the Department of Education. As we keep

pushing, education is very important. The programs for implementing DEAs and understanding the new Language Act, it needs to be put into the schools. We don't want to cut programs. We don't want to cut services. It sounds like this year, in a way, that is what we're doing. We have to get by with what we have. Again it has been hard making decisions on what should be cut and what shouldn't be cut.

So I guess the reason I'm asking these questions is because: what guarantees do we have that this isn't going to happen again? It's gone through four years of all of the checks and balances. Even the Auditor General of Canada was involved and it was missed, and now we're doing this exercise. I'm just wondering if the minister could explain. I know he said he couldn't give us any guarantees, but what is put in place so that this doesn't happen again? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. I just want to remind you that we did go through all of these departments, so there were lots of opportunities to ask questions. I guess if the minister wants to answer, quite obviously, he has that option. Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Elliott for his question. I understand where Mr. Elliott is coming from. It's his job to hold the government accountable, and he and his colleagues are doing a great job in that. As I said earlier, we're learning and everybody is learning from this.

My Department of Finance is going to become more involved with departments. They know that through the deputy ministers' committees and other

committees that they work at. At the FMB level, we're certainly cognizant of what has to be done. We have some very active, hot and heavy discussions about budgets and issues like this. As chairman of the Public Agencies Council, I have been stressing the need to be providing more accountability for public agencies and statutory bodies.

We're going to get some resources to actually support the Public Agencies Council internally through the Department of Finance and probably meet more frequently. It's required to meet quarterly, but I have been going monthly since March. We're going to invite ministers to actually appear with officials to give us regular updates. Through directives, if we notice that there is an issue, I can issue ministerial directives to require monthly reports or quarterly reports. We have done that.

We have another committee called the Central Accountability Committee and we're developing the terms of reference. They will be a group of deputy ministers who will be tasked to find ways within the government to save money or to develop more efficient ways to deliver programs and services and work on budgets.

So there are a lot of activities underway because of this entire exercise, but it was happening even before that. This issue crystallized how urgent it is that we have to have more accountability and better financial systems. I have been talking to my deputy minister about issuing regular directives to all Government of Nunavut departments and interpret the FAM.

Of course, we have been talking about FAM, the Financial Administration

Manual. We're actively engaged in strengthening financial management through the funding that the federal government gave us. We have a very good working relationship with the Office of the Auditor General of Canada that helps us with advice and direction.

You have to remember though that Nunavut is only a bit over 11 years old. I'm not trying to make excuses, but we have been rapidly expanding. I said earlier that we have more than doubled our budget in 11 years. We have 25 communities and it's very difficult in Nunavut to deliver all of the programs and services that you wish.

It's very difficult to attract and retain skilled and qualified employees to work in some of our departments. Some of the people that we have to hire require very specific skill sets. If we don't have those people in Nunavut, then we have to try and recruit them and retain them from the south. It's a real challenge.

It's not only the Government of Nunavut that faces these kinds of challenges. I was the Mayor of Cambridge Bay for several years and we were facing it at that level. I worked in the land claims and we had difficulties there. I talked to many colleagues and friends in the private sector and they're struggling as well in finding all of the skilled people and skill sets that they need to run their businesses.

It's very difficult to run public sector and private sector organizations in Nunavut. We're in a unique part of Canada. Until we get to a certain stage in our maturity, we're going to have these situations where it becomes an issue that we have to deal with. I didn't expect it,

but once it's on you, you have to deal with it and then you have to learn from it.

I hope that through this whole exercise, we will be going through that and we will be better prepared in the future to deliver housing programs and other programs and avoid these kinds of situations. It's painful, it causes setbacks, and it puts a lot of stress and strain on officials and politicians who are charged with the oversight and properly managing public monies.

So I can't guarantee, Mr. Elliott or anyone, that there won't be issues in the future, but I can guarantee him that we're learning from this. From what we learn, we will be better able to manage the public monies in the future. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Peterson. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation) I voted no to the \$2,692,000 reduction of the Department of Education.

First of all, the Pond Inlet residents are afraid that there will be too many kindergarten students enrolled for the next year. The kindergarten students are going to have only one teacher based on the student-teacher ratio. Although they ought to have two teachers, there is no funding for the extra teaching position. Will these reductions have an impact on the number of teachers? Will it have an impact on the teaching positions from kindergarten?

The number of kindergarten students enrolled is increasing every year. I

believe that 58 kindergarten students will be with one teacher. This is unacceptable. Will this \$2.6 million cutback have a negative impact on these teachers? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Arvaluk for that question. It's a question that I will have to defer to my colleague, Minister Tapardjuk. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Peterson. Minister Tapardjuk.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It won't have a negative impact on the programs and services that we provide, like for teachers and the students. It's not going to have an impact on government services since we require teachers and we need school services. It won't have an impact on these programs, which will continue. The most impacted area will be on travel and transportation. We can reduce our expenditures on school materials and contract services.

I can tell him, Mr. Chairman, that all legislated requirements under the *Education Act* will not be impacted. The teachers and students will not be affected, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Tapardjuk. Member from Nanulik.

Mr. Ningeongan (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm a bit confused as to what it is we are reviewing. We have already agreed to some of the departments and yet, we're still asking

questions to the departments that were already passed. I would like us to proceed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. I agree. We will go to page 2. Schedule 1. Operations and Maintenance. Operations and Maintenance Appropriation. -\$16 million. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: We will go to Bill 31 in your white legislation binder. Page 2. Bill 31, *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 2, 2010-2011*. Clause 1. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 2. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 3. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 4. Let's go to Schedule on page 3. Schedule. Vote 1: Operations and Maintenance. Total Operations and Maintenance. -\$16 million. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Total Supplementary Appropriation. -\$16 million. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Go back to clause 4. Clause 4. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 5. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 6. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Are you agreed to Bill 31 as a whole?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Pursuant to Rule 63(2), are members agreed that Bill 31 can immediately be placed on the Orders of the Day for third reading?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Does Minister Peterson have any closing remarks?

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the MLAs for asking a lot of good questions on the deficit reduction bill.

I can't really add any more to what I had already said. We have learned from this entire exercise. I assure the members that we take all of their comments and concerns very seriously and we appreciate the oversight and scrutiny. If there are ever any questions or comments, or a requirement to find out information, my office is always open or emails. I know I get a lot of emails from some members and phone calls.

I think that it is important that we all understand how budgets and finance work in the Government of Nunavut. It's important that we all work together. This is a consensus government, but it is important that we all have awareness and

knowledge of how public monies are utilized because it is for the good of all of our people in the communities that we represent in Nunavut.

So I appreciate the members' questions and oversight, and I look forward to questions on the next bill. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Peterson. We appreciate you coming in and answering some of these tough questions here. Will the Sergeant-at-Arms escort the minister and his officials out, please.

We will take a five-minute break and then we will go to Bill 29.

>>Committee recessed at 17:04 and resumed at 17:14

Bill 29 – Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 2, 2010-2011 – Consideration in Committee

Chairman (Mr. Ningeongan): Thank you. I would now like to ask Minister Peterson of the Department of Finance to make his opening remarks on Bill 29.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman and Members. I am pleased to appear before you to present *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 2, 2010-2011*.

As you are aware, two of the financial measures in front of you today are to implement the government's fiscal action plan to address the shortfall in the Nunavut Housing Trust program. This capital supplementary appropriation bill transfers funding from five projects

across four departments to the Nunavut Housing Corporation for the Nunavut Housing Trust program.

Projects from two departments amounting to \$15 million that are carryover funds from 2009-2010 are included in Bill 28, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 1, 2010-2011*. Use of these funds is contingent on the passing of Bill 28. These funds were identified as not being required in 2010-11 and as such, would have become capital carryovers to 2011-12 if they had not been used as part of this reallocation:

- From the Department of Community and Government Services, \$6.5 million will be transferred from the Kugluktuk Water Treatment Facility; and
- From the Department of Health and Social Services, \$8.5 million will be transferred from two Qikiqtani General Hospital projects - \$2.5 million for furniture, fixtures, and equipment and \$6 million for renovations.

Funds that were approved in the 2010-11 capital estimates and are now being deferred come from the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth. The department is transferring \$7.0 million from the heritage centre project. An amount of \$2.7 million from the 2009-2010 capital carryovers will be retained to allow for continued planning of this project.

Mr. Chairman, these capital projects are still in the capital plan and the government has every intention of reinstating the necessary funds to move

these projects forward next year. In fact, these capital projects already have the associated funding in the draft 2011-12 capital plan that the government is currently developing.

In addition, the Department of Economic Development and Transportation has identified \$800,000 targeted for small craft harbours that will be transferred to the Nunavut Housing Trust program.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my opening comments. I would be pleased to take questions. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Peterson. Do members have any general comments? I don't see any hands. We will now proceed to the page-by-page review of the departmental estimates starting with page 4. Culture, Language, Elders and Youth. Capital. Not Previously Authorized. Culture and Heritage. Mr. Okalik.

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In regard to the heritage centre, it seems that it was the first item cut and it seems that this project funding is just an insurance item that is cut every time we have a budget shortfall. This is not the first time that there has been something taken away from the heritage centre. Again we see that there is a major cut enacted. Although it states that some funding will be reallocated next year, this centre is important to our future and we ought to keep it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Okalik. (interpretation ends) Minister Peterson, if you want to comment on that.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Okalik for that question. We know that the Nunavut Heritage Centre project is an important project. I believe that the Second Assembly introduced it. It has a special significance for Nunavut and I believe it's a requirement under the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement.

However, it's a very expensive project and a lot of planning and design has to go into it, plus there has to be funding from other sources identified. We are leaving \$2.7 million in the project to continue with the planning and design, but I believe that we will have to continue to do a lot of work to identify other funding sources to continue with this project.

I know that Minister Tapardjuk and his officials are doing a lot of work in that regard. If Minister Tapardjuk wants to add some additional comments, I would invite him to do that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Peterson. Minister Tapardjuk.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What my colleague just stated is true. The government has been using the heritage centre funding. Again, I guess we will have to start charging them interest in order to accumulate some funds.

Just for clarity, we are working very hard and there was a surplus in the plans. We have to understand that if we are going to get the heritage centre up and running, we will require \$65 million. The initial amount was at \$55 million, but this will have to be separated into

two phases and we are working hard at trying to make it a reality.

Again, it is obvious that it is identified this year, but it would only be superficial. As long as they leave us enough funds to plan for the heritage centre, we hope to start working on it earnestly next year. When we are seeking approval for funds next year, we would like to get this project underway.

I would like to say, Mr. Chairman, that when we are looking at where we can get third party funds from outside sources, those could be acquired. Definitely, the money will have to be returned for this project and I know that it is going to be a lot more expensive, but it is going to be beneficial to the people of Nunavut once the heritage centre goes up.

That's the response I can give at this time, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Tapardjuk. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the second last paragraph of the opening comments, there is \$800,000 identified that was to be targeted for small craft harbours that will be transferred to the Nunavut Housing Trust program. Looking at the capital carryovers for 2010-11 or 2009-2010, it looks like you are going to be cutting back more than a year's worth.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Arvaluk, we had finished with the opening comments and we had moved on to page 4. I see that he has cut himself off and I'll accept that. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the answers from Minister Tapardjuk. According to the government's 2007-08 annual report on departmental procurement, the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth paid \$220,000 to an Iqaluit based consulting firm for a Nunavut Heritage Centre Capital Fundraising Campaign. What work was performed for this amount of money and how much capital funding did this consulting company's work result in being obtained? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Elliott for that question. I will have to ask my colleague, Minister Tapardjuk, to respond to that question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Peterson. Minister Tapardjuk.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The government has been working with the Nunavut Heritage Trust and Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated on the heritage centre for several years. They had a fundraising campaign and outlined how they were going to proceed with it. The way we were going to progress was we contracted a working group to do a fundraising campaign because we had to raise a lot of money. They identified some options on how we can access funds.

However, we came across a problem as the Nunavut government that we have not identified funds. As my colleague

stated, this is not the first time that it has been approved and used for other purposes. The government did not come to an agreement or identify some money, so it was hard to access funds from governments without this government making a contribution.

What this consulting firm did was to identify what options we had. The consulting firm is no longer working with us, but our government is still looking at ways and means of how to raise money for the heritage centre. We are continually deliberating on it as a Cabinet when we're dealing with capital projects. We're looking at ideas, such as P3 programs, and other options. We're still working on it.

In regard to the consulting firm that you mentioned, they're the ones putting together the options, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Tapardjuk. I have no more names. Culture, Language, Elders and Youth. Capital. Not Previously Authorized. Culture and Heritage. Total Culture and Heritage. -\$7 million. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Total Department. -\$7 million. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Page 5. Health and Social Services. Capital. Not Previously Authorized. Directorate. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In regard to the \$2.5 million for the Qikiqtani General Hospital furniture,

fixtures, and equipment, with some of the questions and Oral Questions brought up in the House about dialysis machines and whatnot, what type of equipment is being deferred or not being purchased until next year? Is it tables, chairs, and beds or is it equipment for use on patients? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Elliott for the question. I don't have that level of detail here. I'll have to ask my colleague, Minister Curley, to provide that information. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Peterson. Minister Curley.

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you. (interpretation) We know that the hospital is quite old. I think it's about 40 years old or over. Looking at the furniture that is currently being used, the old section is mostly a clinic now for the public at large and all of the doctors have their offices there. Their furniture will have to be removed and replaced. We don't have anything identified for specific medical equipment. We are looking at replacing the old furniture in the old section and that is why we're giving the allowance of \$2.5 million. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Curley. We will proceed. Health and Social Services. Capital. Not Previously Authorized. Directorate. Total Directorate. -\$8,500,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Total Department. - \$8,500,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Page 6. Community and Government Services. Capital. Not Previously Authorized. Capital Planning. Total Capital Planning. -\$6,500,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Total Department. - \$6,500,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Page 7. Economic Development and Transportation. Capital. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The government has requested approval for \$800,000 from small craft harbours capital project to the Nunavut Housing Corporation. In the department's 2010-11 capital estimates, which this House approved last fall, there is only \$500,000 for this project.

\$1,120,000 carried over for ED&T's Small Craft Harbours Program was contained in the *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 1, 2010-2011*. How much funding does the Department of ED&T now have for its Small Craft Harbours Program? (interpretation) That was removed. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Arvaluk. Mr. Chairman, I'll ask my colleague, Minister Taptuna, to respond to that question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Peterson. Minister Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for that question. The \$800,000 carryover is requested under page 7. As a department, we feel that the process of planning, designing, and building small craft harbours is way insufficient. The amount of funding that we get, \$500,000, is insufficient to build any small craft harbours because they range from \$15 million to \$90 million depending on the site and the community needs.

With that, we still have the ability to continue on our preliminary work in at least five communities. With the amount of work that is needed within these five communities, we felt that with the \$800,000, we are able to continue doing our work into the future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Taptuna. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Are we saying that if we take off \$800,000 right now, we will put that back plus continue in the same year adding an additional \$500,000 until 2014-15, as it is indicated in your substantiation sheet? Is that correct, Mr. Chairman? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Minister Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I apologize for calling you Mr. Speaker.

Thank you. I thank the member for the question. Yes, with the small amount of budgeting that we get per year, the \$500,000, that's insignificant to build any small craft harbours, but we're moving the process forward in these five communities and I'll mention the communities that I have pointed out.

In Pond Inlet, we're doing the preliminary design work at this time for this year, 2010, and the feasibility study. We're doing the preliminary design work for 2010 for the Arviat Breakwater and Dock. In Rankin Inlet, we're undertaking a feasibility study this year; same for Cambridge Bay, a feasibility study.

The amount of funding that we get is just insignificant to build a dock. We do have to get our Class "A" estimates and bring it forward to DFO or Transport Canada to get it. Building a small craft harbour - as you know, in Pangnirtung, there is one being built there - is at an enormous cost.

Of course, if we move ahead in our planning on this, we're hoping that the federal government will come in, help us get some good estimates, and actually move the projects forward. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Taptuna. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: I understand and appreciate it. Thank you, Mr. Minister. However, I think it should be explained to the public or to the House: are you

continuing to lobby the federal government to implement the Nunavut Small Craft Harbours Report that was made a few years ago now?

Will the department be able to make any improvements to the communities' marine facilities in the 2010-11 fiscal year and if so, which communities have been identified? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Minister Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the support that we get from Mr. Arvaluk. Yes, we lobby hard. We lobby fast, but no matter how fast you go it depends on Ottawa. In fact, my hon. colleague here, the Premier, and I were lobbying again last night to the House of Commons Standing Committee on Infrastructure and Sovereignty. Yes, of course, small craft harbour and breakwater issues did come up and we pushed that hard. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Taptuna. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you again, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister. I think we see enormous economic potential once we have small craft harbours in the communities, especially those communities that have potential for a fisheries port.

As I indicated last year or a year and a half ago, both turbot and shrimp fishing boats in area OA that is right beside Sannirut near Pond Inlet have to go and unload in Nuuk, Greenland or Newfoundland using an enormous

amount of fuel because there are no docking facilities or unloading facilities in Pond Inlet.

You could appreciate that some of these communities, especially for shrimp and turbot fisheries potential, could pay for welfare and that's over forty million dollars a year now easily if these people started being employed who otherwise would not be employed today.

So are you planning as a government to come up with substantiation reports, materials, and studies to convince the federal government that there is an enormous amount of economic potential if craft harbours can be built? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. I would like to remind the member that I think we're going a little beyond the scope of what the intent is here; however, if Minister Taptuna wishes to respond to that.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Arvaluk for those comments. Yes, we lobby the federal government, DFO, and we use the House of Commons Standing Committee for them to do up the reports to the government in Ottawa. Of course, the fisheries are included.

You mentioned the fact that fishing vessels offload in Greenland. There is no reason why we can't push it and we are pushing for proper docking facilities in Qikiqtarjuaq. DFO has Class "D" estimates and they're looking at that. They estimate that costs will be between \$15 million and \$20 million.

Yes, we're working hard to make sure that economic benefits through infrastructure building are part of Nunavut and sovereignty. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Taptuna. We shall continue. Economic Development and Transportation. Capital. Not Previously Authorized. Transportation. Total Transportation. - \$800,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Total Department. - \$800,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Page 8. Nunavut Housing Corporation. Capital. Not Previously Authorized. Nunavut Housing Corporation. Total Nunavut Housing Corporation. \$41,100,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Total Department. \$41,100,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Go to Schedule on page 2. Schedule 1. Capital. Capital Appropriation. \$18,300,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Go to Bill 29 in your white legislation binder. Are you

there yet? Bill 29, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 2, 2010-2011*. Clause 1. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 2. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 3. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Go to Schedule on the last page. Schedule. Supplementary Amounts Appropriated for the Fiscal Year Ending March 31, 2011. Vote 2: Capital. Total Capital. \$18,300,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Total Supplementary Appropriation. \$18,300,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Go back to clause 4. Clause 4. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 5. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 6. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Go to the next page. Clause 7. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Are we in agreement to Bill 29 as a whole?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Are you agreed that Bill 29, pursuant to Rule 62(2), can immediately be placed on the Orders of the Day for third reading?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Peterson, do you have closing remarks?

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank yourself and Members of the Committee of the Whole for your questions the last few days on these bills. They're very important questions.

As I indicated in various answers, this is a one-time temporary measure for this fiscal year only. We have learned a lot from this issue and we are going to implement more accountability into the government and ramp up our reporting requirements on public agencies, as I indicated earlier. It has been a good exercise.

I would like to thank our officials in all of the government departments who have worked very diligently together as a team to put these bills together. I think they did an excellent job and they learned a lot.

I would like to thank my colleagues on Cabinet for pulling together as well.

It is very important for all Nunavummiut that we did this in the truest spirit of a consensus government working together. We will be able to complete the houses that are desperately needed in all

communities in Nunavut. I think we are well on our way to helping those folks out in the communities who elected us to make these tough decisions. It is not always easy being a politician. Sometimes you have to make the tough decisions.

I would like to thank my officials in Finance for working very hard to coordinate everything and putting all of these packages together. They have done a great job.

So with that, Mr. Chairman, I thank you for having us here. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Peterson. Thank you to your staff. (interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the officials out.

(interpretation ends) I would like the Law Clerk to join us at the table. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. I would now like to ask the minister responsible, Mr. Tapardjuk, to make his opening remarks.

Bill 20 – An Act to Amend Certain Acts Related to Education – Consideration in Committee

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good afternoon. I am pleased to meet with the committee to discuss Bill 20, *An Act to Amend Certain Acts Related to Education*.

Mr. Chairman, the new *Education Act* was passed on September 18, 2008. That Act was a complete rewrite of the

previous *Education Act* which resulted in changes in terminology and some different approaches to topics. These changes affect a number of other Acts which have references to the *Education Act* or work together with the *Education Act* on certain topics.

Bill 20 proposes amendments to a number of Acts to ensure they continue to work well with the new *Education Act*. None of these amendments set a new policy direction. Most of the changes are consequential in nature, changing Act wording without changing their meaning at all. Where there are changes to the meaning in these other Acts, it is to match policy changes already established in the new *Education Act*.

Changes are made to a number of Acts to match the new *Education Act* terminology and wording as well as to ensure section references are changed to match the new *Education Act*. The *Financial Administration Act*, *Local Authorities Elections Act*, and *Statutory Instruments Act* are all amended for these reasons.

The *Nunavut Teachers Association Act* and *Public Service Act* sections of Bill 20 also include amendments to fit with changes made in the *Education Act* regarding teacher employment. A minor clarifying change is proposed to the *Education Act* itself in this regard as well.

Many of the changes proposed in Bill 20 relate to school taxes. This affects the *Cities, Towns and Villages Act*, the *Hamlets Act*, and the *Property Assessment and Taxation Act*. There are no school taxes in place at this time and

there are none proposed. The changes ensure that there is a functional set of legislation in place should taxation be desired in the future.

Mr. Chairman, in preparation of the *Education Act* in 2007, some of these amendments were consulted on as part of the development of that Act. All departments in charge of affected Acts were consulted in the preparation of this bill. The Nunavut Teachers Association was consulted on the changes related to the *Nunavut Teachers Association Act* as well. These consultations went very smoothly and there is no known opposition to any of the amendments in Bill 20.

I would be happy to respond to questions from the committee, Mr. Chairman.
Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Tapardjuk. Do you have witnesses that you would like to bring to the table?

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Yes, I do.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Tapardjuk. Does the committee agree to bring in the witnesses?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the minister and his officials.

Thank you. (interpretation ends)
Minister Tapardjuk, for the record, please introduce your witnesses.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you. To my left is Kathy Okpik,

Deputy Minister of Education. On my right is Brad Chambers, Director of Policy and Planning, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Tapardjuk. Are there any general comments? Mr. Okalik.

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As Chair of the Standing Committee on Legislation, I am pleased to make opening comments as we begin consideration of Bill 20, *An Act to Amend Certain Acts Related to Education*.

Mr. Chairman, as you know, a new *Education Act* for Nunavut was one of the most significant accomplishments of the Second Legislative Assembly. The new legislation made a number of important changes to the delivery of education across Nunavut. With the exception of a few sections, Nunavut's new *Education Act* came into force on July 1, 2009. The remaining sections will come into force on July 1, 2010 and July 1, 2011.

The bill before us today proposes to amend various Acts in order to ensure consistency in terminology and approach between a number of statutes, most of which were in place before the passage of the new *Education Act*.

Mr. Chairman, the standing committee is in support of the proposed amendments relating to education. During the minister's appearance before the standing committee on the occasion of its clause-by-clause consideration of Bill 20, members took the opportunity to raise a number of issues.

Mr. Chairman, the committee noted that the only amendment which applies specifically to the *Education Act* relates to the definition of "teacher."

Amendments to the *Nunavut Teachers Association Act* and the *Public Service Act* are also intended to ensure consistency of terminology with respect to the definition of teacher as well as to clarify the status of membership in the bargaining unit. In discussion with the minister, it was noted that the terms "educator" and "teacher" are often used interchangeably.

The standing committee urges the minister and his officials to ensure that all Nunavut teachers and educators have clear information regarding their employment status, the bargaining unit to which they belong, and any benefits to which they may be entitled. This is particularly important for individuals employed in new positions that have been established under the new *Education Act*.

Members also noted that Bill 20 introduces amendments relating to school taxes. The current education mill rate is zero, meaning that ratepayers pay property taxes but do not pay any school taxes. While members support the current situation, it was also recognized that the government may need to re-impose school taxes at some point in the future.

Members questioned the minister and his officials with respect to amendments relating to the *Local Authorities Elections Act* and why individuals with criminal records were not made ineligible to stand as candidates for district education authorities. The committee appreciated the minister's

commitment to give further consideration to this issue in the future.

The standing committee has noted that a process is currently underway to develop regulations under the new *Education Act* and looks forward to reviewing these regulations.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my opening comments. The standing committee recommends the passage of Bill 20 to all members. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Okalik. I apologize because you did not receive a copy of the opening comments, but you will be receiving a copy of the opening comments tomorrow. We apologize. Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In recognition of the clock, I would like to make a motion to report progress at this time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. We have a motion on the floor to report progress and the motion is not debatable. All those in favour of the motion. All those opposed. The motion is carried. I will now rise to report progress.

Speaker (interpretation): Going back to our Orders of the Day. Item 20. Report of the Committee of the Whole. Mr. Ningeongan.

Item 20: Report of the Committee of the Whole

Mr. Ningeongan: Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Bills 20,

29, and 31 and would like to report that Bills 29 and 31 are immediately ready for third reading. And, Mr. Speaker, I move that the Report of the Committee of the Whole be agreed to. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningeongan. There is a motion on the floor. Is there a seconder? Mr. Okalik. The motion is in order. All those in favour, raise your hand, please. Opposed. The motion is carried.

(interpretation ends) Item 21. Third Reading of Bills. Hon. Keith Peterson.

Item 21: Third Reading of Bills

Bill 29 – Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 2, 2010-2011 – Third Reading

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Rankin Inlet and Whale Cove, that Bill 29, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 2, 2010-2011*, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. The motion is in order. All those in favour, raise your hand, please. Opposed. The motion is carried and Bill 29 is ready for assent.

Third Reading of Bills. Mr. Peterson.

Bill 31 – Supplementary Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, No. 2, 2010-2011 – Third Reading

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon.

Member for Rankin Inlet and Whale Cove, that Bill 31, *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 2, 2010-2011*, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. The motion is in order. All those in favour, raise your hand, please. Opposed. The motion is carried and Bill 31 is ready for assent.

Third Reading of Bills. (interpretation ends) Item 22. Orders of the Day. Mr. Clerk.

Item 22: Orders of the Day

Clerk (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A reminder that there will be a meeting of the Regular Members' Caucus at 6:15 this evening in the Tuktu Room.

Orders of the Day for June 10:

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Oral Questions
7. Written Questions
8. Returns to Written Questions
9. Replies to Opening Address
10. Petitions
11. Reports of Standing and Special Committees

12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills

13. Tabling of Documents

14. Notices of Motions

15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills

16. Motions

17. First Reading of Bills

18. Second Reading of Bills

- Bill 35

- Bill 37

19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters

- Bill 15

- Bill 16

- Bill 17

- Bill 20

- Bill 26

- Bill 32

- Bill 36

- Tabled Document 13 – 3(2)

- Tabled Document 66 – 3(2)

- Tabled Document 99 – 3(2)

- Tabled Document 100 – 3(2)

20. Report of the Committee of the Whole

21. Third Reading of Bills

22. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you.
This House stands adjourned until
Thursday, June 10, at 1:30 p.m.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 18:05*

